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Japan

Further Reportage on U.S.-Japan Framework Talks

Outcome of Day Two Meeting

OW2105001294 Tokyo KYODO in English 2325 GMT 20 May 94

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Washington, May 20 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. officials met for the second day Friday [20 May] to thrash out a possible deal to jump-start stalled trade talks on ways to increase foreign access to key Japanese markets. While officials put a tight lid on what went on at the meeting behind closed doors, there were at least indications that neither side has given up hope of trying to fashion an agreement.

"The talks are ongoing," said a Japanese official after emerging from three hours of talks held Friday morning at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

Both U.S. and Japanese officials refused to comment on substantive issues raised after the two sides broke off the morning session. The talks resumed in late afternoon, and another session is tentatively set for Saturday. The negotiations to revive the so-called "framework" trade talks have been closely watched on financial markets as a barometer in the state of the relationship between the world's two largest economies.

Reflecting the sensitivity of the negotiations, two Japanese principals involved in the negotiations—Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry Sozaburo Okamatsu and Deputy Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi—slipped off after the morning session without being noticed by a group of reporters staking out the main entrance of the USTR office.

Like their Japanese counterparts, U.S. officials involved in the talks were equally tight-lipped.

"You know I can't talk," said a U. S. official when asked for comment.

One senior U.S. negotiator involved in the talks, however, sought to project an air of conviviality.

"We had a good and cordial conversation, and we will meet again," said Bowman Cutter, deputy director of the Presidential National Economic Council.

The trade talks, based on a "framework" accord the two countries concluded in July last year, ruptured in February at a meeting in Washington between President Bill Clinton and then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, who succeeded Hosokawa in late April, and Clinton agreed last week to work out a common "basis" for restarting the framework talks before they meet at the group seven summit in Naples in early July.

One major sticking point in the framework talks—and the primary cause for the rupture of the negotiations at the Feb. 11 U.S.-Japan summit—is the idea of setting "objective criteria" to measure imports to Japan. In what is known as a "results-oriented" approach, the U.S. has insisted using "numerical indicators" to ensure that a trade agreement with Japan translates into increased foreign sales in the Japanese market.

Tokyo has strongly objected to the idea, saying it amounts to government-managed trade.

Among the industry sectors covered under the "framework" accord are Japanese Government procurement for medical and telecommunications products, trade in autos and auto parts and the Japanese insurance market.

The U.S. wants Japan to open its market wider to foreign goods and stimulate domestic demand in order to reduce its vast, and growing, trade surplus. The U.S.-Japan trade imbalance was underscored by fresh U.S. Government data Thursday that showed the U.S. trade deficit with Japan jumped 25 percent in March to 5.80 billion dollars. The U.S. trade gap with Japan came to 15.04 billion dollars in the first three months of this year, well ahead of the comparable period last year which stood at 13.3 billion dollars.

'Exploratory Talks' Described

OW2105020894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0148 GMT 21 May 94

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Washington, May 20 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. officials met for the second straight day Friday [20 May] but still came up short of a deal to jump-start stalled trade talks on ways to increase foreign access to key Japanese markets.

The two sides agreed to make another try Saturday.

"There has been progress in mutual understanding," said a Japanese official involved in the negotiations.

The negotiations, which lasted five hours Friday, were aimed at breaking a three-month deadlock in the so-called "framework" talks that has badly strained bilateral trade ties.

While officials declined to comment on what transpired across the negotiating table, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor underscored the importance of the meeting by personally attending part of the "exploratory talks" between subcabinet officials.

Representing the Japanese team were Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry Sozaburo Okamatsu and Deputy Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi.

The U.S. delegation consisted of two principal Japan trade negotiators, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and Presidential National Economic Council Deputy Director Bowman Cutter.

Like their Japanese counterparts, U.S. officials involved in the talks were equally tight-lipped.

"You know I can't talk," said a U.S. official when asked for comment.

Cutter, however, sought to project an air of conviviality after emerging from the morning session.

"We had a good and cordial conversation, and we will meet again," Cutter told reporters.

The trade talks, which are closely watched on financial markets as a barometer in the state of relationship between the world's two largest economies, ruptured in February at a meeting in Washington between President Bill Clinton and then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, who succeeded Hosokawa in late April, and Clinton agreed last week to work out a common "basis" for restarting the framework talks before they meet at the group seven summit in Naples in early July.

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In what is known as a "results-oriented" approach, the U.S. has insisted on using "numerical indicators" to ensure that a trade agreement with Japan translates into increased foreign sales in the Japanese market.

Tokyo has vehemently objected to the idea, saying it amounts to government-managed trade.

Among the industry sectors covered under the "framework" accord are Japanese Government procurement for medical and telecommunications products, trade in autos and auto parts and the Japanese insurance market.

The U.S. wants Japan to open its market wider to foreign goods and stimulate domestic demand in order to reduce its vast, and growing, trade surplus.

The U.S.-Japan trade imbalance was underscored by fresh U.S. Government data Thursday that showed the U.S. trade deficit with Japan jumped 25 percent in March to 5.80 billion dollars.

The U.S. trade gap with Japan came to 15.04 billion dollars in the first three months of this year, well ahead of the comparable period last year which stood at 13.3 billion dollars.

Third Day of Talks Called Off

OW2105151094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1457 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Washington, May 21 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. officials on Saturday [21 May] called off a third day of talks aimed at striking an elusive deal on jump-starting stalled trade talks on ways to increase foreign access to key Japanese markets, informed sources said.

The two countries were earlier scheduled to resume the talks on Saturday.

Senior U.S. and Japanese officials huddled for more than 10 hours in two days Thursday and Friday to "explore" a common basis to break a three-month deadlock in the so-called "framework" talks.

Trade Deal Described as 'Elusive'

OW2205022294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0129 GMT 22 May 94

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Washington, May 21 KYODO—Japan and the United States held a third day of trade talks Saturday [21 May] as officials raced to find a mutually acceptable formula to increase market penetration in Japan for several U.S.-interested industry sectors.

"Both sides felt that it would be important to meet this afternoon to further clarify and address the issues on the table," said a spokeswoman for U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

At stake is the prospect of the so-called "framework" trade talks, which ruptured in February and have since badly soured bilateral trade relations.

Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata and U.S. President Bill Clinton have said they are eager to find a common "basis" for resuming the framework talks when they meet at the Group of Seven summit in Naples in early July.

But the prospects of an early agreement remained elusive after three days of on-and-off negotiations.

When the officials emerged from another hourlong face-to-face encounter Saturday afternoon, they refused to say whether there was progress in their latest round of talks.

"I can only say the talks are ongoing," said Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi.

Japanese officials said the two sides will meet again Monday.

Saturday's session was a surprise.

Both the Japanese embassy and Kantor's office told reporters earlier Saturday that the two sides have called off the day's session.

"The Americans later called us up and told us they need certain clarifications," a Japanese official said later in explaining why the two sides decided to hold a meeting Saturday.

While both Japanese and U.S. officials have declined to comment on what transpired across the negotiating table, Kantor underscored the importance Washington attaches to this week's talks by personally participating in part of the negotiations between sub- cabinet officials.

The trade talks, which are closely watched on financial markets as a barometer in the state of relationship between the world's two largest economies, broke down at the Feb. 11 meeting in Washington between Clinton and then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

One major sticking point in the framework talks—and the primary cause for the three-month deadlock in the negotiations—is the idea of setting "objective criteria" to measure imports to Japan.

In what is known as a "results-oriented" approach, the U.S. has insisted on using "numerical indicators" to ensure that a trade agreement with Japan translates into increased foreign sales in the Japanese market.

Tokyo has vehemently objected to the idea, saying it amounts to government-managed trade.

Among the industry sectors covered under the framework accord concluded last July are Japanese Government procurement for medical and telecommunications products, trade in autos and auto parts, and Japanese insurance market.

The U.S. wants Japan to open its market wider in these "priority" market areas and stimulate domestic demands in order to reduce its vast and growing trade surplus.

The U.S.-Japan trade imbalance was underscored by fresh U.S. Government data Thursday that showed the U.S. trade deficit with Japan jumped 25 percent in March to 5.8 billion dollars.

The U.S. trade gap with Japan came to 15 billion dollars in the first three months this year, well ahead of the comparable period last year which stood at 13.3 billion dollars.

Talks at 'Delicate Stage'

OW2305032194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, may 23 KYODO—Japan and the United States are "at a delicate stage" in their bid to reopen stalemated "framework" trade talks, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai said Monday [23 May].

"We are vigorously trying to break an impasse in the negotiations," the top government spokesman told a news conference after Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata met with senior government officials Monday morning on the protracted trade talks.

Kumagai, trade minister in the last government, refused to comment further on the ongoing efforts to resume the talks for setting up a new framework for bilateral trade. Japan and the U.S. have held three rounds of exploratory talks to weigh terms and conditions for resuming the negotiations under the framework agreement concluded last July.

The trade talks, which are aimed at widening foreign access to the Japanese market and paring down Japan's vast trade surplus, broke down in February after Tokyo rejected Washington-proposed yardsticks to gauge progress in Japanese imports.

Among the industry sectors covered under the framework accord are Japanese Government procurement of medical and telecommunications equipment, trade in autos and auto parts, and the Japanese insurance market.

The U.S. wants Japan to open its market wider in these "priority" areas and stimulate domestic demand to reduce its trade surplus.

The trade imbalance was underscored by fresh U.S. Government data released last week showing the U.S. trade deficit with Japan leaped 25 percent in March to 5.8 billion dollars.

The trade gap came to 15 billion dollars in the first three months of this year, well ahead of the same period last year, when the figure stood at 13.3 billion dollars.

Meanwhile, Finance Ministry officials said the ministry has dispatched Eisuke Sakakibara, vice chief of its international finance bureau, to washington to help with talks aimed at resuming the framework dialogue. He is in charge of negotiations on the insurance market.

Unofficial vice ministerial-level talks to unblock the trade stalemate are under way in Washington, but no senior high-ranking officials from the Finance Ministry have attended the talks so far.

Both Sides Seek Talks Resumption

OW2305095094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—Japan and the United States both want to agree during ongoing informal talks in Washington to resume the stalled bilateral trade framework talks, Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito said Monday [23 May].

Saito told a news conference it is clear the two sides want to reach agreement on the resumption during the unofficial vice- ministerial talks to be held again Monday and that he hopes Tokyo and Washington would make efforts to achieve that.

Japan and the U.S. have held three rounds of exploratory talks since last week to weigh terms and conditions for resuming the negotiations under the so-called "framework" agreement concluded last July.

The trade talks, which are aimed at widening foreign access to the Japanese market and paring down Japan's vast trade surplus, broke down in February after Tokyo rejected Washington-proposed yardsticks to gauge progress in Japanese imports.

Saito also said a visit to the U.S. by Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa is a possibility depending on the outcome of Monday's unofficial talks.

Kakizawa has repeatedly expressed his intention to visit the U.S.

Saito said the government will consider what steps should be taken after the ongoing talks end.

Tokyo Joins UN Children's Rights Convention

OW2205072694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan on Sunday [22 May] became a party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Foreign Ministry sent ratification documents to the world body last month and Japan's participation in the convention came into force on Sunday.

The convention, which came into force in September 1990, addresses the individual rights of children and sets universally accepted standards for their protection.

Japan is the 158th country to join the child protection treaty.

Some Japanese have criticized the government for defending a part of the country's civil code which they say violates the convention by discriminating against and stigmatizing illegitimate children.

Under the code an illegitimate child's inheritance is set at half that of a legitimate child.

Also, legitimate children in the family registration system are listed in such manner as "eldest son" or "youngest daughter," while illegitimate children are listed only as "male" or "female."

Ozawa: DPRK Nuclear Program May Provoke 'Crisis'

OW2105110394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Key coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa said Saturday [21 May] that North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program may turn the situation on the Korean peninsula into a serious crisis.

In a speech in the northeastern Japan port city of Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture, Ozawa said he is "concerned that Japan may be isolated in the international community if it cannot do anything (about the crisis)."

"Many say remittances from Japan (to North Korea) are equivalent to North Korea's state budget and that (North Korean) high-tech military machines were made in Japan," said Ozawa, the secretary general of the coalition's core party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party].

Assistance Planned for South Korean Small Firms

OW2105064394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0613 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Japan and South Korea will discuss in Tokyo next Thursday [26 May] ways to promote bilateral industrial cooperation for small South Korean companies, Japanese Trade Ministry officials said Saturday.

Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister [MITI] Eijiro Hata and his South Korean counterpart, Kim Chul-su, will meet to devise a joint program to foster small companies in South Korea, the officials said.

The program is expected to call for dispatch of Japanese experts to South Korea, Japanese companies' acceptance of South Korean trainees and promotion of Japanese investment in South Korea.

During the one-day meeting, both parties will also select South Korean companies to serve as models under the industrial cooperation program, the officials said.

An investment delegation representing 80 blue-chip companies in South Korea will accompany Kim.

The delegation will seek stepped-up Japanese investment in its country in Tokyo, Osaka and Kitakyushu, the MITI officials said.

Tokyo To Extend Aid Worth $34,000 to Belarus

OW2005124094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan will hand over medical goods and equipment worth 34,000 dollars to Belarus as emergency humanitarian assistance to help the victims of the 1986 Chernobyl accident, the Foreign Ministry said Friday [20 May]. The aid consists of about 3 tons of medical goods and equipment that can meet emergency medical demands of 30,000 people over a three-month period, the ministry said.

Japan's Ambassador to Russia Koji Watanabe will hand over the goods to Belarus on Monday, it said. Watanabe will visit Belarus to present his credentials to concurrently serve as ambassador to Belarus, it said.

Agency Chief Cautious on Russian Fishing Proposal

OW2205082994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, May 22 KYODO—State Minister Moriyoshi Sato on Sunday [22 May] opposed a Russian proposal that Japanese fishing ships be allowed to operate in waters off four Russian-occupied islands claimed by Japan provided they pay fishing charges.

"As the Northern Territories are Japan's inherent territory (Japan) should not authorize any Russian intervention, including joint fishing ventures," said Sato, who is director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies.

Nikolai Pokidin, head of the South Kurils Administration, earlier this year proposed that both sides strike a commercial deal on fishing in the area.

But Tokyo has rejected the proposal out of concern that such a step could be taken as an indirect recognition of Russian sovereignty over the territory.

Sato visited the city of Nemuro on the eastern tip of Hokkaido to view the Russian-held islands from Nosappu Point.

Japan has long demanded the return of Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets, known in Japan as the Northern Territories, which were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Russia has voiced protest over hundreds of border violations by Japanese fishing boats in the area over the last year.

Russians Arrive Under Visa-Free Program

OW2105023694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0206 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Sapporo, May 21 KYODO—A group of 61 Russians from the disputed "northern territories" arrived in Nemuro, Hokkaido, on Saturday [21 May] under a visa-free exchange program with Japan.

Japanese officials said the Russians will go to Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture where they will visit Chinatown and other locations during their Japan stay until Wednesday.

The visiting group will also exchange views with the Japanese sponsors of their trip regarding the Russo-Japanese row over the sovereignty of Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai group of Islets, the officials said.

The group is the second Russian group to come to Japan this year under the three-year-old visa-free exchange program.

Two Japanese groups recently visited what the Japanese call the "northern territories."

Soviet troops seized the islands at the end of World War II.

Patrol Boats Watch Ship for Illegal Asians

OW2205100994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—A Honduras-flagged freighter with some 60 non-Japanese Asians on board is approaching southern Japan, TBS TV reported Sunday [22 May].

Five patrol boats are keeping watch on the 500-ton vessel, identified as the Montana, which was spotted in waters some 35 kilometers off Tanegashima Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, Tokyo Broadcasting System said. The vessel is sailing slowly west-northwest, it said.

Maritime Safety Agency officials suspect the passengers may be attempting to enter Japan illegally, TBS said.

On Wednesday, a group of 138 Chinese were apprehended while hiding in a warehouse at Hakata port in Fukuoka. They were arrested for allegedly entering the country illegally.

Aviation Treaty Signed With Vietnam

OW2305111894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—Japan and Vietnam on Monday [23 May] signed an aviation treaty aimed at opening regular flights between the two nations, the Foreign Ministry said.

Japanese and Vietnamese Government officials signed the treaty in Hanoi, the ministry said. With the signing of the treaty, the two countries will boost bilateral relations and address mounting air transportation demands, it said.

Vietnam has been urging Japan to open regular flights between the two nations since 1990 and the two sides began negotiations on the signing of the treaty last September, it said.

Sakigake Leader Takemura Leaves for U.S.

OW2205052694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—New party Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura left Tokyo on Sunday [22 May] on a weeklong visit to the United States for talks with government and congressional leaders on economic and trade issues, and North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program.

Sakigake officials said Takemura, 59, will also talk with U.S. officials about Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

He will address the Asia-Pacific Center in San Francisco on Thursday before returning home Saturday, they said.

Sakigake, set up by a splinter group of 15 Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) legislators, quit the ruling coalition in April along with the Social Democratic Party (SDP), leaving the cabinet of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata a minority government.

SDPJ Delegation Returns From PRC

OW2205114294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—A delegation from Japan's No. 2 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], returned home Sunday [22 May] from an eight-day visit to China.

During their stay in China starting May 15, the delegation led by SDPJ Secretary General Wataru Kubo met with Chinese officials on Japan's political scene and North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program.

Monju Nuclear Reactor Fully Loaded With Fuel

OW2005124994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Fukui, May 20 KYODO—Japan's prototype fast breeder reactor "Monju" is now fully loaded with fuel and ready for going "critical" throughout the entire core, the governmental Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. said Friday [20 May]. The last of the 198 fuel assemblies was installed in the core the same day, and the reactor is now set for full chain reactions of nuclear fission. Monju, located in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, is expected to reach critical state early Sunday.

The controversial fast breeder reactor reached criticality for the first time on April 5, with 168 fuel assemblies installed. The reactor, which is fueled by a mixture of plutonium oxide and uranium oxide, is believed to have the potential to use fuel 60 times more efficiently than conventional uranium reactors.

Criticality is the point at which the neutrons produced in the fission process are sufficient to sustain a chain reaction without outside stimulus.

Since the reactor reached criticality, the governmental agency has been gradually installing the remaining fuel assemblies, while experimenting with the critical conditions by inserting and removing some of the 19 neutron-absorbing control rods. The 280,000-kilowatt prototype reactor will undergo further tests in this chain reaction stage before turbines are connected in April next year for generating electricity. Full operation is scheduled to start in December 1995.

Reactor Reaches 'Critical' Stage

OW2205052494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0459 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Fukui, May 22 KYODO—Japan's new plutonium-fueled fast breeder reactor "Monju" on the Sea of Japan coast went "critical" through its entire core at 12:43 a.m. Sunday [22 May], the governmental Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. said. Criticality is the point at which the neutrons produced in the fission process are sufficient to sustain a chain reaction without outside stimulus. The loading of Monju with fuel was completed Friday, when the last of the 198 fuel assemblies was installed in the core. Since then, the government agency has been gradually removing the neutron-absorbing control rods allowing the reactor to reach full criticality.

The fast breeder reactor in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, reached criticality for the first time April 5, with 168 fuel assemblies installed. The reactor, which is fueled by a mixture of plutonium oxide and uranium oxide, is believed to have the potential to use fuel 60 times more efficiently than conventional uranium reactors.

The 280,000-kilowatt prototype reactor will undergo further tests in this chain reaction stage before its output will gradually be increased in February next year. The 600 billion yen plant is scheduled to go on line generating electricity from April 1995 and become a commercially operating supplier by December the same year.

Further on Reaction to Utility Rate Freeze

MITI Urges Utilities To Cooperate

OW2005141094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1322 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will urge Japanese electric power and major city gas suppliers to avoid raising their rates after October, ministry officials said Friday [20 May]. The power and gas utilities in November 1993 implemented a temporary cut in their rates, valid until September, to pass on the benefits of the yen's appreciation against the dollar to consumers. The stronger yen has reduced crude oil import costs for the utilities.

The rate cut has lowered the monthly electric power bill for the standard household by 100 yen and the city gas cost by 138 yen.

The government said Wednesday it will freeze until the end of the year proposed hikes in public service charges, including power and gas rates, public transportation fares and telephone rates. But Hiroshi Watanabe, chairman of the Japan Gas Association, told reporters Thursday that member companies plan to end the rate cut after October.

Business Leader For 2-Year Freeze

OW2005124394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—An influential business leader welcomed a government decision to freeze public service charges until the year-end and expressed hope Friday [20 May] that the decision will remain in force for more than two years.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said the decision by the government Wednesday to freeze public fee hikes was a welcome move and that it should remain in force for at least two years. He said it would be unnatural to raise government-controlled fees at a time when private enterprises are going all out to restructure operations and cut costs.

'Psychological Boost' Expected

OW2305114894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—The government's move to freeze a planned hike in various public services charges will give a psychological boost to consumers made cautious by the recession, a senior government official said Monday [23 May].

Tsutomu Tanaka, vice minister of the Economic Planning Agency, told a press conference that the freeze also will bring about other favorable effects on the economy, by prompting public utility companies which had planned to raise their charges to undergo further restructuring measures.

The government announced last Wednesday that public fees would not be increased this year, including those for telephone services, taxis and national highway tolls.

Tanaka said he had been informed of the announcement the night before.

Asked why Jiro Saito, vice finance minister, was not informed of the announcement until the next day, as he later complained, Tanaka said that he himself was only informed apparently because he was due to leave Japan on Wednesday for an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development meeting in Paris.

Rice Imports Produce 53 Billion Yen Profit

OW2005130694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The Food Agency said Friday [20 May] it made a profit of 53 billion yen in the five-month period ended March 31 through emergency imports of rice to deal with the poor rice crop last year. The agency said 48 billion yen or 90 percent of the profit, which excludes transport and other expenses, was transferred to a special account to cover a decrease in income by farming households. The agency said it made total rice imports of 410,000 tons in the period at an average price of 68,000 yen per ton and sold the rice at 218,000 yen per ton. The agency expects to make a total profit of 300 billion yen from rice imports in the current grain year ending Oct. 30, when it plans to import 2.08 to 2.48 million tons of rice, officials said.

Government To Cut Rice Price Gaps by 20 Percent

OW2205114194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Price differences between domestic and foreign rice and wheat should be reduced by 20 percent by the year 2000 to protect Japanese growers from foreign rivals with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, a government calculation indicated Sunday [22 May].

According to the calculation, the producer rice price averaged 17,700 yen per 60 kilograms from 1986 to 1988, more than 10 times higher than the price of Thai rice, the cheapest on the international rice markets.

Under the agreement signed in mid-April by a ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Marrakech, Morocco, Japan will open 4 percent of its long-closed rice market to imports under a "minimum access" formula with the rate increasing each year until it reaches 8 percent.

After a six-year grace period, Japan will have to convert all rice import restrictions into tariffs.

Under such conditions, the government should slash its purchase price of domestic rice by 18 percent and that of wheat by 16 percent from current levels by the year 2000 to make domestic production competitive on the international markets, according to the government calculation.

Base on the calculation, the government plans to gradually reduce producer prices of rice and wheat from this year.

Under the staple food system, the government buys much of the rice crop at a set price and resells it at lower prices to consumers by subsidizing the price gap.

Kubo Demands Hata Resign After Passage of Budget

OW2105095694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Dalian, China, May 21 KYODO—The No. 2 man of Japan's second largest opposition party on Saturday [21 May] urged the minority cabinet of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata to resign immediately after the state budget passes the Diet.

Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] Secretary General Wataru Kubo said that the Hata cabinet should resign en masse soon after the fiscal 1994 budget bills are approved by the Diet, and before the opposition camp submits a no-confidence motion.

Kubo, talking with Japanese reporters traveling with him during his current eight-day trip to China since Sunday, said the SDPJ is likely to seek a no-confidence vote if Hata refuses to step down.

The possibility of an SDPJ no-confidence motion would be "very high" if the Hata cabinet does not resign en masse, he said.

The largest opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), has already said it will seek a no-confidence vote after the long-delayed budget for fiscal 1994, which began in April, clears the Diet.

Kubo also hinted the SDPJ, which holds the swing vote in the Diet, may move to make a rapprochement with its former coalition partners if Hata bows out.

If Hata opts for resignation, he said, the SDPJ will consider that "the score is settled" with the former allies.

He was referring to the feud over a new Diet bloc created by the coalition partners led by Shinseito, which infuriated the SDPJ and resulted in their break from the coalition the day Hata was named to succeed Morihiro Hosokawa as prime minister.

The SDPJ's defection from the ruling coalition left Hata with the first minority government in four decades.

The three-week-old Hata administration has been under constant pressure from the opposition over what they call an insufficient mandate by the public.

The opposition's call for Hata to give up the helm began moments after he took it.

SDPJ Chairman Tomiichi Murayama made a call last week for early general elections for the House of Representatives to restore stability in the government.

Kubo's remarks Saturday that the SDPJ will likely seek a no- confidence vote against Hata unless he voluntarily resigns will put the premier in a tight corner since the LDP is almost certain to vote against Hata.

Defeat by a no-confidence vote would leave Hata with a harsh choice of either resigning or calling a snap poll.

On the issue of the SDPJ's participation in a successor government, Kubo said, "there is no chance that we would return to the current ruling coalition."

"It should not be a reshuffle of the Hata cabinet. We would discuss the issue from a completely new standpoint."

Kubo ruled out, however, the possibility of the SDPJ allying with the LDP.

"A grand LDP-SDPJ coalition, which could lead to a resurrection of LDP politics, is not in the cards," he said.

The LDP holds 206 seats in the 511-member House of Representatives, while the SDPJ has 74, against the ruling coalition's 178.

Kubo also swiped at the government's increasing pressure on a government panel to hurriedly redraw an electoral map for the new election system of combined single-seat constituencies and proportional representation.

Hata and his coalition's top strategist Ichiro Ozawa of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] are dead set against holding elections under the old multiseat system, which will be replaced with the new system once the electoral map is redrawn in line with the Political Reform Law passed in January.

Kubo suggested he is opposed to extending the term of the current Diet session to pass the bills for the constituency changes. The 150-day parliamentary session is due to end June 29.

"If the people's voices (calling for general elections) emerge before the committee task is finished, we will have no choice but to hold elections under the current system," he said.

Kubo's call for Hata's early resignation pits him starkly against party chief Murayama in jockeying for leadership in the party as it tries to build up a new strategy for political realignment, political analysts said.

Murayama is tilting toward the holding of early elections under the old multiseat constituency system to recover the SDPJ's loss of seats in the lower house before making its next political move.

Behind Kubo's gambit is his more sober assessment that the SDPJ's victory in the elections is far from secured, party sources said.

Kubo, therefore, moved toward what he believes is a more plausible path of going back to the ruling party, one analyst said.

It is, however, by no means clear what kind of political realignment he has in mind for his strategic moves, since many SDPJ lawmakers are adverse to joining hands with Ozawa's Shinseito, they said.

SDPJ's Murayama Urges Hata Cabinet To Resign

OW2205075294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Fukushima, May 22 KYODO—The leader of the country's second largest opposition party renewed its call for the minority cabinet of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata to resign immediately after the state budget passes the Diet.

Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], said there is no difference of opinion between him and the party's No. 2 man, Wataru Kubo, the SDPJ secretary general.

On Saturday in China, Kubo said that the Hata cabinet should resign en masse soon after the Diet approves the fiscal 1994 budget bills and before the opposition camp submits a no-confidence motion.

Murayama, delivering a speech in the city of Fukushima, some 270 kilometers northeast of Tokyo, said talks can be launched among various political parties to restructure the coalition government.

The present coalition is mainly formed by Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], Komeito, and the Japan New Party. The SDPJ, which was the No. 1 component of the previous cabinet led by Morihiro Hosokawa, quit the coalition late last month in protest against the abrupt formation of a large parliamentary group excluding the SDPJ.

Meanwhile, the SDPJ chairman also said a dissolution of the House of Representatives for a snap general election might be inevitable in the event of political turmoil. "There may be no other way but to seek the judgment of voters," he said.

Hata 'May Consider' Proposal on Cabinet Resignation

OW2105150494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1443 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata hinted Saturday [21 May] he may consider an opposition proposal that his minority cabinet resign immediately after the state budget passes the Diet.

"It is one idea," Hata said.

Hata told reporters that he will meet or talk over the telephone with Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan], the second largest opposition party, who made the suggestion earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, chief cabinet secretary Hiroshi Kumagai told reporters that the cabinet will take Kubo's proposal seriously.

Kubo, in a meeting in China with Japanese reporters traveling with him, said that the Hata cabinet should resign en masse soon after the fiscal 1994 budget bills are approved by the Diet, and before the opposition camp submits a no-confidence motion.

Kubo said the SDP may seek a no-confidence vote if Hata refuses to step down. The possibility of an SDP no-confidence motion would be "very high" if the Hata cabinet does not resign en masse, he said.

Hata Rejects Demand To Disband Cabinet

OW2305122694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata on Monday [23 May] spurned an opposition demand to disband his minority cabinet upon parliamentary passage of the fiscal 1994 state budget.

"There should not be a standoff between the ruling coalition and the opposition camp," Hata told the House of Representatives Budget Committee. He added that his administration, "is sincerely seeking to implement the common policy agreement."

The premier was responding to a query by Social Democratic Party (SDP) legislator Shun Oide.

The SDP, which was the No. 1 component of the previous cabinet led by Morihiro Hosokawa, stormed out of the coalition late last month in protest against the abrupt formation of a large parliamentary group excluding the SDP. The SDP's move forced Hata to form Japan's first minority government in 39 years.

SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo demanded Saturday that the Hata Cabinet should resign en masse after the fiscal 1994 budget bills are approved by the Diet, and before the opposition camp submits a motion of no-confidence.

Kubo also hinted that the SDP, which holds the deciding vote in the Diet, may move to make a reconciliation with its former coalition partners if Hata bows out.

SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama said Sunday there is no difference of opinion between him and Kubo. Murayama said a dissolution of the lower house for a snap general election might be inevitable in the event of political turmoil.

Yohei Kono, president of the largest opposition Liberal Democratic Party, said Monday he agrees with the SDP on the issue.

Oide urged Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa to withdraw his recently published comments that Japan needs to apply a more flexible interpretation to the Constitution in order to defend itself in the face of a "possible threat from North Korea's missiles and the buildup of China's naval forces."

Oide took issue with a statement of Kakizawa's published in a book that carried proposals from 200 intellectuals and politicians.

Kakizawa rejected Oide's demand to renege his conviction about Japan's defense policy, while promising to live up to the Hata administration's vow not to amend interpretation of the Constitution.

Hata rejected Oide's demand that Kakizawa be dismissed as foreign minister to take account for his remark.

Hata renewed a pledge Monday to seek the passage of the overdue fiscal 1994 state budget by the end of the current Diet session as discussions on the budget finally started.

Hata said,"I really hope the budget passes in the current Diet session by any means. I will make most sincere efforts for that." The Diet session is scheduled to end June 29.

"I feel great responsibility. I regret the delay," Hata said. Nearly 80 days have passed since the government submitted the budget to the Diet for deliberations.

He was responding to questions by an LDP legislator Takashi Fukaya.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai denied he is seeking an extension of the term of the current Diet session to ensure the passage of the budget.

Hata declined to talk about an extension of the Diet session, saying it is a matter that should be decided by the Diet.

Kumagai also promised a formal report on the recent "sexist" remarks by Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Shinseito and top policy strategist in the ruling coalition.

Kumagai said he will directly ask Ozawa what he really meant by the remarks and will brief the committee session.

He was referring to Ozawa's remarks last month which defended the move among some coalition partners to create a new Diet bloc without the SDP.

Comparing the convergence of various political parties to an extramarital affair, Ozawa reportedly told reporters, "it doesn't matter which women you may sleep with."

Kumagai said the remarks are "not appropriate if they were really made."

Hata Revises 'Universal Security' Statement

OW2105005694 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 20 May 94

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] In the upper house Budget Committee session today, Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata explained the coalition's uniform definition of the expression Fuhenteki Anzen Hosho [Universal Security]—the expression used in describing Japan's concept of security in the coalition parties' policy agreements. Hata said the coalition's uniform view is that this expression refers only to the general framework of peace and security provided by the United Nations.

The collective security in the UN Charter means a cooperative act by the international community to restore peace if peace is threatened or an act of aggression takes place. The charter also talks about possible specific actions, including military operations. But Prime Minister Hata said the concept of universal security refers to the general framework accepted by the international community on maintaining peace and security under the United Nations. He said this term is different from collective security, but did not clarify whether this term has a military connotation.

The coalition partners have been said to have different views on the question of whether the term [universal security] included the possibility of military action. Prime Minister Hata had earlier told the lower house Budget Committee that the words—universal security and collective security—have roughly the same meaning.

Today's announcement that the two terms do have different meanings amounts to an amendment to Hata's earlier statement. Observers said this is an attempt by the coalition partners to avoid giving the impression that since the two terms are said to be the same thing, the Japanese Government may be willing to take part in UN military operations.

Hata Pledges To Seek Passage of State Budget

OW2305044494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0425 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata renewed a pledge Monday [23 May] to seek the passage of the overdue fiscal 1994 state budget by the end of the current Diet session as discussions on the budget finally started.

Hata told the House of Representatives budget committee, "I really hope the budget passes in the current Diet session by any means. I will make most sincere efforts for that." The Diet session is scheduled to end June 29.

He apologized for the delay in the budget debate due mainly to the political turmoil over former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's shady personal finances, which forced his resignation last month.

"I feel great responsibility. I regret the delay," Hata said. Nearly 80 days have passed since the government submitted the budget to the Diet for deliberations.

He was responding to questions by an opposition Liberal Democratic Party legislator Takashi Fukaya.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai denied he is seeking an extension of the term of the current Diet session to ensure the passage of the budget.

Hata declined to talk about an extension of the Diet session, saying it is a matter that should be decided by the Diet.

Kumagai also promised a formal report on the recent "sexist" remarks by Ichiro Ozawa, top policy strategist in the ruling coalition.

Kumagai said he will directly ask Ozawa what he really meant by the remarks and will brief the committee session.

He was referring to Ozawa's remarks last month which defended the move among some coalition partners to create a new Diet bloc without the Social Democratic Party (SDP), which led to defection by the angry SDP, the largest coalition component.

Comparing the convergence of various political parties to an extramarital affair, Ozawa reportedly told reporters, "it doesn't matter which women you may sleep with."

Kumagai said the remarks are "not appropriate if they were really made."

LDP's Fukaya also questioned Hata over what he calls a "vague" concept in the government's defense policy.

He blasted the coalition's policy platform, which says Japan's constitution adopts "universal security," saying such a concept does not exist in international law or the UN Charter.

Hata said universal security is a wide concept that roughly corresponds to the constitution's idea about the nation's security.

It is a bit wider concept than the collective security as defined in the UN Charter, but not quite far from it, he added.

Concerning the possibility of Japan's military involvements in international crises, Hata reiterated that the government will handle the situation within the framework of the constitution.

Fukaya, unsatisfied with the answers, sought a unified view by the government over the security issue.

Tax Panel Devising Alternatives for Tax Reforms

OW2005125494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The government's Tax Commission has begun crafting several "alternatives" for a comprehensive overhaul of Japan's tax system, commission chief Kan Kato said Friday [20 May]. But these alternatives, to be presented at public hearings across the nation starting June 7, will not indicate any certain direction of the commission's tax reform policy, Kato told a press conference.

After carefully studying the pros and cons of each alternative, the commission will devise a tax reform plan in line with the three principles put forward by former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in April, Kato said after emerging from a tax panel session. The three principles include tilting toward indirect taxation such as a consumption tax to ease the people's heavy income tax burden, establishing how to cover the increasing welfare-related expenses of a rapidly aging society, and the reorganization of Japan's fiscal status.

Kato voiced his personal hope that the "final option" for tax reform will be one which seeks a net tax increase in view of the spirit of these principles. Kato said some commission members have requested the final reform proposal be shown in quantitative terms, such as specifying the rate of a proposed consumption tax hike. But on this point, accord has yet to be reached with others who insist that rate fixing is "a highly political decision," he said.

One of the "alternatives" to be suggested by the Tax Commission for overhauling Japan's taxation system is a hike in the consumption tax from the current 3 percent, commission sources said.

The commission will recommend several possible hikes in the rate, centering around 7 percent, based on different economic outlooks, growth rates and business climates, as well as the duration of income tax cuts before a consumption tax hike takes effect, the sources said. The commission is also poised to recommend that the government maintain the new income tax rates, which are to be slashed this year, the sources said.

"It would be reasonable for the hike in consumption tax to come about three years after the income tax cuts," Kato told reporters.

Japan has sought overall reforms of its taxation system, partly to stimulate its economy through a reduction in income tax and to prepare for increasing welfare expenses in a rapidly aging society.

In order to secure funds to cover such policies, the government is considering the higher consumption tax or introduction of a new kind of tax.

In February, Morihiro Hosokawa, then prime minister, suggested the establishment of a 7-percent "national welfare tax." The new tax plan was shelved due to strong opposition among politicians who claimed the plan was proposed abruptly and lacked a clear vision.

Sakigake's Takemura Criticizes Strategist Ozawa

OW2105103494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Utsunomiya, May 21 KYODO—The leader of new party Sakigake [Harbinger], a 15-member opposition group in the House of Representatives, criticized chief coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa on Saturday [21 May] of trying to turn the country into a major military power.

In a speech in Utsunomiya, some 110 kilometers north of Tokyo, Masayoshi Takemura said he was opposed to Ozawa's argument for turning Japan into what Ozawa calls an "ordinary country."

When Ozawa says "ordinary country," he means one which owns a military commensurate with its economic capability and assumes responsibility jointly with the United States for troubles in the world, Takemura said.

Takemura, who served as chief cabinet secretary until late last month in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, said his party will never follow the path toward such a military power.

Takemura said Japan should make international contributions in such nonmilitary fields as environmental protection, north-south issues, aids and narcotics.

Ozawa is regarded as the de facto leader of the ruling coalition's core party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], which is nominally headed by Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata.

While Ozawa calls for changing Japan into an "ordinary country," Takemura has proposed the nation be a "small but twinkling country."

Many political analysts say differences between Ozawa and Takemura represented the underlying cause for the breakup of the Hosokawa cabinet.

Takemura's Sakigake did not send any member to the Hata cabinet, but has vowed to back it up from the outside of the cabinet until the fiscal 1994 budget passes through the Diet.

Ozawa: Policy Gaps To Force Second Restructuring

OW2005140494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1336 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Mizusawa, Iwate Pref., May 20 KYODO—The ruling coalition's political kingpin predicted Friday [20 May] that a gulf among Japanese political parties over security and tax policies will force a further reconfiguration of their alliance.

Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], a core party in the coalition, told a lecture meeting here, "the political community will inevitably undergo another restructuring due to policy issues." He said this reconfiguration will be necessitated by sharply conflicting policies of political parties concerning Japan's tax system reform and defense policy.

Ozawa was apparently referring to profound gaps among the parties over a proposed raising of indirect taxes to bolster state revenues, and Japan's response to the suspected North Korean nuclear arms program.

Ozawa dismissed the seriousness of the April 26 withdrawal of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) from the coalition, which has left the Hata administration as a fragile, minority government.

"We do not have to get upset" by the pullout, he said. The rift was triggered by the abrupt formation of a unified parliamentary bloc in the House of Representatives, excluding the SDP. He branded as "irrational" ongoing talks between the Liberal Democratic Party and the SDP toward forming their own alliance.

"I do not worry about such moves, as I believe that those who can think and act reasonably will take a rational course of action," he said. "Because Japan needs to restore political stability as quickly as possible, we have to alleviate the current turmoil and transform the administration into a stable government by expediting the restructuring of the political community," Ozawa said.

Ozawa predicted that the next election for the House of Representatives will be contested under the new single-seat constituency system which was pushed through the Diet in January.

He made the statement as the administration faces the possibility that the opposition camp's tabling of a no-confidence motion against it in the Diet could force Prime Minister Hata to call the election under the current multiseat constituency system.

Japan must legislate an electoral redistricting bill that would split the current multiseat constituencies into 300 single-seat constituencies, if it is to hold the next election lawfully under the single-seat system. The January legislation, combined with the redistricting bill, will replace the existing 511 seat multiseat system of elections for the lower chamber with a mix of 300 single-seat constituencies and proportional representation, under which the remaining 200 seats would be allocated.

United Social Democratic Party Dissolves

OW2205071894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0650 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—The tiny United Social Democratic Party (USDP), which helped last August to oust the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after almost four decades in power, formally dissolved Sunday [22 May], closing the book on 16 years of political activity.

The move, long anticipated as USDP Secretary General Shogo Abe last December announced that the party's "historical mission" has been fulfilled with the government change, was made at a national party convention in Tokyo.

Abe and party chief Satsuki Eda, who served as science and technology agency chief in the non-LDP coalition government under Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, has already joined Hosokawa's Japan New Party (JNP).

The party's third Diet legislator, Yanosuke Narazaki, will retain his House of Representatives seat as an independent but is closely affiliated with the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ].

Many of the USDP's estimated 10,000 members in some 22 local party organizations, some of which have voiced ardent opposition to the dissolution of their party originally scheduled for January this year, are expected to enter the JNP.

The USDP, founded in March 1978, evolved from the Socialist Citizens' League, which was formed in 1977 by a group of right-wing members of the then Japan Socialist Party (JSP), in conformity with the wishes of Eda's deceased father, JSP defector Saburo Eda.

The party saw itself as bridging the gap between the JSP and its right-wing splinter, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP).

Since the 1985 party congress, Eda and Abe have been leading the party. Though a small party, the USDP wielded a certain influence through cooperation in supraparty bodies and parliamentary alliances with the SDPJ and the DSP.

During its 16-year history, the USDP, struggling to find a raison d'etre between two other socialist parties and disrupted by intraparty differences, was more than once close to disintegration.

In an effort to reinvigorate the party in 1992, Eda founded the political study group "Sirius" together with reformers in the SDPJ, but the body collapsed after the USDP suffered major losses in the general election in July last year.

Review of HDTV Broadcasting System Proposed

OW2205075594 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1049 GMT 20 May 94

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] The Radio Regulatory Council, an advisory body to the post and telecommunications minister, has submitted a report on the future use of high-definition television [HDTV]. The report proposes that licenses for HDTV broadcasting should be granted to different stations for each day of the week beginning this autumn, when test-broadcasting is scheduled to begin, and that one of the satellite television channels should be tentatively allocated for HDTV broadcasting after 1997, when fully-fledged broadcasting is scheduled to begin.

The Post and Telecommunications Ministry plans to start test- broadcasting HDTV programs after the current round of test-broadcasting ends this autumn. It also plans to start full HDTV broadcasting after 1997 using a new satellite to replace the current BS-3 satellite.

Licenses for HDTV broadcasting are currently granted only to the Hi-Definition Television Promotion Association. Today's report recommends that this should be revised so that all television stations will be able to produce programs independently. According to the report, licenses for test-broadcasting will be granted to different stations for each day of the week, and each station will be allocated more than five hours of broadcasting time. NHK will also have more than five hours of broadcasting everyday, providing a combined total of more than 10 hours of HDTV broadcasting a day by NHK and commercial stations. Commercial stations will be allowed to air advertising.

The report says three of the eight channels on the new broadcasting satellite will be allocated for current satellite broadcasting channels. However, these channels will be used for HDTV broadcasting when HDTV sets become more common. The other five channels will be allocated for both HDTV and conventional broadcasts—one will be tentatively reserved for HDTV broadcasts. The report says commercial stations can specialize in sports, news or other areas of their choice, and they will be allowed to air advertising and charge fees for their programs.

NHK and commercial stations will soon apply to the ministry for licenses for HDTV test-broadcasting.

Challenge to Gas Distribution May Change MITI Rule

OW2105055394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0519 GMT 21 May 94

[By Keiji Urakami]

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—The recent attempt by a Japanese rice retailer to offer discount gasoline may accelerate a drive to eliminate a complicated web of rules and regulations in this country.

Earlier this week, Nagoya suburbs-based Kanare Beikoku created a stir in Japan's consumer front by opening without a license a gas station that sells gasoline at 10-15 yen less per liter than at other stations.

"The move was in protest against the government's licensing policy," said an official at Kanare Beikoku.

Analysts say the rice retailer challenged conventional gasoline distribution networks firmly protected under administrative guidance of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

MITI's local unit did not issue a business license to Kanare Beikoku, claiming it could not confirm the routes by which the retailer plans to obtain gasoline supplies.

MITI says the rule, stipulated under the Gasoline Sales and Distribution Business Law, is intended to secure a stable supply of gasoline.

Kanare Beikoku cuts middlemen and buys cheaper gasoline directly from trading houses, defying a usual practice among Japanese gas stations of securing product sources by belonging to one of the major oil wholesalers.

It is widely believed that Kanare Beikoku did not clarify the supply routes, expecting a licensing application without forming an affiliation with major wholesalers would be rejected by MITI.

"MITI's administrative rule effectively blocks new business entry by gasoline discounters," said Katsutoshi Kano, president of Kanare Beikoku.

MITI has appeared baffled by an unexpectedly large media coverage of the case that said the rule in question keeps Japanese motorists paying four times what their American counterparts pay for gasoline.

One editorial at a major newspaper has cast doubt even over the necessity of securing "stable" sources of gasoline.

"Any gas stations having trouble in securing gasoline go under," the editorial said. That's a market mechanism. Consumers would not be affected."

In an apparent softening of the ministry's previous stance, Vice MITI Minister Hideaki Kumano told a press conference that there is room to review the rule.

A senior official at the Natural Resources and Energy Agency admitted the regulation was originally crafted as a way to prevent excessive price-cutting competition among gas stations.

"But it may be timely to discuss the validity of maintaining the regulation," he said, apparently having in his mind the recent "price revolution" in all consumer fronts in Japan.

The latest incident over gasoline sale may have embarrassed MITI because it took place just one day after the ministry announced a set of bills aimed at scrapping or easing government control on rules and regulations.

MITI submitted nine bills to the current Diet sitting Friday [20 May] along with 31 other bills written by other ministries, in line with the government's deregulation policy.

Among the nine bills, one calls for abolition of a rule that requires antidecay treatment of lumber for use in telegraph poles and railroad ties.

"Nobody uses lumber for such purposes now," MITI explained.

Earlier this week, MITI placed "letter boxes" at its local offices across the nation to receive complaints, requests and opinions from general consumers on its deregulation policy.

In view of the recent national trend toward deregulation, Kanare Beikoku may have a fairly good chance of winning a fight against MITI, often labeled abroad as a faithful guardian of rigid administrative rules.

The government of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata recently vowed to come up with powerful deregulative measures by the end of June as part of efforts to bolster domestic demand and hence the nation's appetite for imports.

Relaxing economically restrictive government regulations is a mission of his administration, Hata said.

During the previous administration of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, the Office of Trade and Industry Ombudsman of the Economic Planning Agency was upgraded to ministerial level.

Earlier this month, the Ombudsman proposed a set of deregulative measures in response to complaints from consumers.

The proposal covers many aspects of people's livelihood, ranging from a simpler auto inspection system designed to cut inspection costs running over 100,000 yen to a reduction in a layer of procedures for obtaining import permission for cosmetics and perfume.

The social trend appears difficult for MITI to reverse.

Under the law, Kanare Beikoku faces fines of up to 300,000 yen. But the senior official at the Natural Resources and Energy Agency, a MITI unit, said MITI does not plan to enforce the law immediately.

"We will patiently ask the retailer to take a due procedure," the official said, hinting that the ministry wants to look the other way in order not to draw public attention on the issue.

Imposing penalties against the gas station would only aggravate public sentiment against MITI.

Kanare Beikoku's President Kano may be encouraged by strong support of consumers.

The gas station proved an instant hit with motorists, with their cars lining up early in the morning to buy gasoline at 100 yen per liter.

New Transport Minister on Civair Deregulation

OW2005141894 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1041 GMT 13 May 94

[Interview with Transport Minister Nobuaki Futami by NHK announcer Yoshiaki Kawabata—via live relay from the Ministry of Transportation in Tokyo; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] [Kawabata] Mr. Futami, the China Airlines [CAL] crash took place just before you took office. I believe the crash was a very tragic accident. First of all, I would like to ask you what kind of take safety measures are you going to take for the airline industry?

[Futami] I toured the crash site on 6 May. I landed at Chubu Airport aboard a YS-11 airplane that flew the same route as the China Airlines plane. The crash was a very tragic accident. I am resolved to do everything in my power to prevent the recurrence of such a crash in our nation. I have asked an investigative committee to speedily determine the cause of the crash for the sake of future safety. At the same time, I have asked the committee to make public information obtained as a result of the investigation to prevent a recurrence of such a crash. The voice recorder has been analyzed and the result of the analysis came to light on 30 April. The Transport Ministry is now taking various necessary safety measures while instructing or guiding concerned aviation organizations.

[Kawabata] This question concerns compensation negotiations between the bereaved families of victims and China Airlines. Mr. Futami, you have said the Transport Ministry would provide the bereaved families with maximum assistance. Would you spell out maximum assistance?

[Futami] I think that the negotiations will begin between the bereaved families and the China Airlines. As you know, there are no diplomatic relations between Japan and Taiwan. I think the bereaved families are at a loss over how to proceed with the negotiations. The Transport Ministry intends to provide the bereaved families with all possible support while consulting with the Foreign Ministry. For the moment, I cannot specifically explain how our ministry plans to help the bereaved families since the negotiations have yet to begin. The Transport Ministry intends to provide the bereaved families maximum support while watching the progress of the negotiations.

[Kawabata] Mr. Minister, I would like to ask you about deregulation. As I reported at the outset of this evening news program, Keidanren [the Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan] today presented Prime Minister Hata with a report calling for the deregulation of 196 items. Upon receiving the report, Prime Minister Hata promised to take the leadership. Mr. Futami, how do you plan to exercise your leadership in deregulation in the transport area?

[Futami] I intend to aggressively work on deregulation on the basis of free enterprise. I have seen the report presented by Keidanren. I think it is a good one, compiled after months of hard study. I am thinking of asking my ministry officials to study it without haste.

[Kawabata] I would like to ask you about deregulation of the airline industry. The Aviation Council is expected to compile a report in June, at the earliest. I believe that the report will call for deregulation of the airline industry in order to bolster the industry's competitiveness. How are you going to deregulate domestic airfares, which are higher than fiercely competitive international airfares?

[Futami] Japanese airlines spend too much on personnel compared with foreign airlines. For their sound management, we have to study how to cut personnel expenses. I believe that it is desirable for the Japanese airlines to hire more foreigners. I believe that the Japanese airlines need to examine the possibility of selling tickets at a certain discount rate for domestic flights. It is said that domestic air fare is cheap in Europe. They are offering discount tickets. I think it is a good idea.

[Kawabata] The Hata government was formed by political parties holding a minority in the Diet. How do you think the Hata government should resolve issues in the future?

[Futami] Generally speaking, the present political situation is a tough trial for the ruling coalition parties. I believe that Japanese politics itself is now going through a major trial. At present, no single political party in Japan can hold the majority in the Diet unless the Liberal Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party of Japan forge a coalition. Under this political situation, if each party pursues its own interests, nothing can be done, leaving Japan in a state of anarchy. The government, therefore, needs to put forth clear policies to the people while asking both ruling and opposition parties to debate those policies in the Diet. I believe that if the ruling and opposition parties debate those policies in the Diet, it would pave the way for dispelling public distrust in politics. I think it is important that the ruling and opposition parties show the people that they are vigorously engaged in policy debates in the Diet without pursuing their own interests.

The work of the Transport Ministry is related closely to our lives. I therefore am confident that not only the ruling coalition parties, but the opposition parties will gladly cooperate with the Transport Ministry. I am also confident that as far as the Transport Ministry is concerned, all opposition parties will fully cooperate with any proposals made by the ruling coalition parties, even if they hold a minority in the Diet.

[Kawabata] Mr. Futami, thank for being with me.

Concern Over Interest Rates Policy Growing

OW2105064494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0617 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—A sense of concern is growing in the Bank of Japan (BOJ) over a narrowing gap between short-term interest rates and the official discount rate, financial sources said Saturday [21 May].

The central bank is pursuing a policy of encouraging a fall in short-term interest rates to help promote Japan's economic recovery and to support the flagging U.S. dollar.

The policy caused the unsecured, overnight interbank call money rate to fall to a record low of 2.06 percent on May 11.

The rate has remained little changed since then and is now only 0.3 percentage point higher than the official discount rate, now 1.75 percent, which the BOJ charges on its loans to commercial banks.

That means that the BOJ, whose loans are becoming less attractive to commercial banks, is losing some of its power to adjust commercial interest rates, the sources said.

Some money market watchers are already speculating that a further cut in the discount rate is imminent.

For the record, BOJ officials are unconcerned about the fall in the overnight call money rate, saying a temporary fall in the rate below the discount rate would do little harm.

Private Security Staff Exceeds Police by 1.4 Times

OW2105040494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—In Japan, often described as one of the safest countries in the world, the private security industry is doing a thriving business, with the number of private guards exceeding police by 1.4 times, the National Police Agency said Saturday [21 May].

As of the end of 1993, some 320,000 private security staff were guarding companies and private homes in Japan, reflecting a rising awareness of security and a soaring demand for surveillance, the agency said, while the number of police totaled about 223,000.

The agency said the private security boom has been fueled by the spread of the five-day work week, with facilities remaining closed during the weekend, and an increasing number of the elderly feeling uneasy about safety.

The number of private security staff first outstripped that of police officers in 1990, when it reached 230,000 guards.

Since 1972, the year when a law on private security companies was enacted, the number of firms has increased ninefold to 7,062, with a corresponding jump in staff by 7.8 times to an overall 321,721.

The 1993 figures represent a year-on-year increase of 7.4 percent for the number of companies and a 10.4 percent rise in staff.

Women made a slight inroad into the male-dominated security business in 1993, boosting their share to 5.9 percent, or 18,880 guards, from 5.2 percent.

In 1993, the security business registered a record 1.56 trillion yen in annual turnover, a slight increase over the previous year.

The business has also profited from a diversification trend. Private guards nowadays work as bodyguards for politicians and prominent people, direct traffic, monitor festivals and other events or accompany cash deliveries and the transport of hazardous goods.

Private guards were involved in more than 200 on-the-spot arrests and joined police investigations into some 170 cases last year, the agency said.

Former Vice Minister To Head Livestock Agency

OW2105024694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries tentatively decided Saturday [21 May] to name a former vice agriculture minister for international affairs to head the ministry-affiliated Livestock Industry Promotion Corp., ministry officials said.

Jiro Shiwaku, 61, will officially succeed the current president, Nobuo Imamura, on June 1, the officials said.

Shiwaku represented Japan in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which were concluded last December.

North Korea

NODONG SINMUN on Replacement of Fuel Rods

SK2105101494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0810 GMT 21 May 94

[NODONG SINMUN 21 May commentary: "No One Can Challenge Our Work To Replace the Fuel Rods"]

[Text] Recently, the United States and the forces that follow it have once again strengthened the antirepublic oppressive commotion by finding fault with the issue of replacing the fuel rods at our five-megawatt experimental nuclear power plant.

They are trying to drive the situation to an extreme circumstance [kuktanui sanghwang] by saying that the nuclear issue has entered a grave stage, that the replacement of our fuel rods is a grave violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and the safeguards accord, that our issue must be brought to the UN Security Council and sanctions implemented, and so on—because we started to replace the fuel rods. This is a violent distortion of the facts, and tells us that the United States and the forces that follow it are persistently maneuvering to crush our Republic.

The issue of replacing the fuel rods at our five-megawatt experimental nuclear power plant is a natural consequence resulting from the rupture of the DPRK-U.S. talks by the United States.

In reality, up until now the United States had used the DPRK-U.S. talks as a lever to realize its selfish goal by strengthening its pressure on us. The United States created a nuclear crisis and increased pressure on us inside and outside the talks. Also, under the cloak of modernizing the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea, it shoved in numerous military equipment into South Korea, including the Patriot missiles and Apache helicopters, for offensive use, obtained enormous economic interests, and strengthened its military presence in South Korea, which is a strategic point of Asia. On the other hand, we are receiving a grave military threat from the United States.

The third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks was ruptured, and the DPRK-U.S. agreement on changing the graphite-moderated reactor system to a light-water moderated reactor system has a long way to go due to the betraying act of the United States. Under this circumstance, we could no longer indefinitely freeze the operation of the graphite-moderated reactor system even by suffering an enormous economic loss. Therefore, it was inevitable for us to move toward the road of normalizing our peaceful nuclear activities.

No one can pick a quarrel with the issue of replacing the fuel rods at our five-megawatt experimental nuclear power plant, even from the technology safety point of view. The fuel rods in the five-megawatt experimental nuclear power plant were (?placed) in 1986. Since then we have delayed replacing the fuel rods until now to provide a favorable environment for the DPRK-U.S. talks. Today a considerable number of fuel rods have been damaged. In particular, due to the damage of the ventilator, a situation was created in which we had to stop the operation of the experimental atomic reactor [sihom wonjaro].

As a result, a serious safety issue was presented in the operation of the experimental atomic reactor, and thus it became inevitable to take out the fuel rods immediately.

Out of such urgency, we sent as many as five telex messages to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] regarding the replacement of fuel rods. In the telex messages, we called on the IAEA to take necessary measures regarding this—such as being present at the scene to seal and dismantle [haechae] them—while informing in advance our plan on replacing the fuel rods.

In addition, we explicitly clarified that in the event the IAEA Secretariat did not take appropriate measures at the right time, we would be compelled to recognize this as an action showing that the IAEA has empowered us with the authority to break the seals at appropriate (?spots) [kuromyonso kigusogigugi haedanghan taechaegul chaettae chwihaji annungyongu haedang (?kaesoaeso) ponginul ttel kwonhanul uriege puyohang-osuro injonghalsubakke optanungosul myongbaekhihay-otta]. What is more, we agreed to all the IAEA's demands on the witnessing activities, except selective measurement of fuel rods because it is against our unique stance, and immediately issued visas upon request. However, the IAEA Secretariat unreasonably came out with demands tantamount to irregular inspections [pijonggi sacharae manmongnun yogurul murihagae tulgonawat-sumyo] by babbling about selective preservation of fuel rods and, thus, rejected the witnessing, openly ignoring our unique status following the temporary suspension of the effectuation of the withdrawal from the NPT.

Under such circumstances, we, as a means of last concession, sent an emergency letter to the U.S. side writing that if our unique stance was settled [haesodoemyon] now by bringing the package deal between the DPRK and the United States to success, we could allow all regular and irregular [chonggimitpijonggi] inspections—including selective preservation of some fuel—even during the course of replacing the fuel rods. Nonetheless, the United States also rejected this proposal and did not respond to the talks with the DPRK.

Under such conditions, we could no longer delay the changing of fuel rods due to technical safety reasons [kisul anjongsang iyuro]. In view of this, the beginning of our work on replacing fuel rods without the presence of the IAEA Secretariat's inspectors was an unavoidable step entirely stemming from the IAEA's unreasonable acts. Such being the case, there is no grounds for the United States and the IAEA Secretariat to say so and so about our replacement of fuel rods.

Before picking on us, the IAEA Secretariat should reflect on its acts in avoiding its obligation to guarantee the normal nuclear activities of a member nation. It is an unbreakable mission of the IAEA to go to the spot for confirmation and to take necessary measures when an abnormal situation crops up in a member nation.

Although we requested the agency to immediately take appropriate measures, including a quick removal of the seals under unavoidable circumstances, the IAEA Secretariat avoided to be present during the replacement of the fuel rods for the reason that we refused to meet their unilateral demand of being allowed to choose and keep some of the replaced fuel rods. And it is now raising quite a row, informing the member nations of the agency's Board of Governors and the UN Security Council that we unsealed the facilities and violated the NPT. This is obviously a mean, conscienceless act unbecoming to an international organization.

The U.S. action is also the same. If the United States had responded to the DPRK-U.S. talks and brought a package deal to a success as demanded by us, such complicated problems existing now would have not even been raised from the beginning.

Nevertheless, the United States avoided the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks, ignoring problems put forth by us and continuously persisting in unreasonable preconditions. Therefore, for the United States to make an issue of the replacement of our fuel rods now is the same as a thief turning on the master with a club.

In particular, some officials in the United States are currently stirring up the public opinion as if we were replacing the fuel rods to extract plutonium to produce four to five nuclear bombs. This is truly preposterous.

Unavoidably, we started the replacement of the fuel rods without the presence of the IAEA, but we are doing our best to verify that the nuclear materials are not being diverted for other non-peaceful purposes in the process of replacing the fuel rods because of the consistent will to prove the innocence of the peaceful nuclear activities.

The IAEA can never be allowed to choose and keep the fuel rods before our special status is brought to an end. However, this does not mean that the continuity of the safeguards would be broken. The work of replacing our fuel rods is now going on under the strict observation of the inspection cameras installed by the IAEA and as soon as the fuel rods are taken out, they are kept under the restriction and surveillance of the IAEA.

We are carrying out the work on replacing fuel rods in such a manner as to fully preserve the possibilities of measuring all the replaced fuel rods when the nuclear issue is resolved in a package deal and the partiality of the agency removed [urinun appro haengmunjeui ilgwaltagyoli silhyondoego kiguui pulgongjongsongi haesodoenun sichomegaso kyochedoen modunyollyobongduladaehan chukchong kanungsongul chungbunuhui pojonhanun panghyangeso nosimyollyojagobul chinhaenghagoitta]. This matter can be solved through negotiations between the DPRK and the IAEA.

Nonetheless, some forces inside the United States are trying to forcibly [okchiro] link our fuel rod replacement work with nuclear development. This can only be seen as a childish plot [yuchihan sulchaek] designed to find a justification to impose sanctions on us by deliberately aggravating the situation. At present, the attempt to justify its unreasonable argument with any wild guess or assumption can never get through. The nuclear issue should also seek a fair solution on the basis of the reality, squarely seeing the reality.

The United States and the IAEA Secretariat must no longer make mistakes in the solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula but take a proper position for honestly solving the issue.

United States Urged To Respond to Peace Proposal

SK2305022294 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1640 GMT 22 May 94

[Unattributed talk: "The United States Should Respond to Peace Negotiations With Us"]

[Text] We recently proposed to the United States that negotiations be held to establish a new peace guarantee system to prevent arms buildup and recurrence of war, to stabilize the situation, and to ensure durable peace and security in a practical and dependable manner on the Korean peninsula. Our initiative toward negotiations is generating great international reaction, which proves that our proposal is right.

A state of acute military confrontation remains on the Korean peninsula. This resulted from the wrongful U.S. act of wantonly violating the Korean Armistice Agreement and paralyzing the armistice mechanism and from the U.S. policy of crushing the DPRK.

The United States has been trampling [chitpalpko] upon the agreements of the Armistice Agreement even more wantonly and following the road of reckless military confrontation and adventurism. Raving about countermeasures to check someone's nuclear development and surprise attack, hardline conservative forces of the United States have massively brought and deployed various types of equipment, including new Patriot missiles, in South Korea, and assembled a large-scale mobile strike armed forces around South Korea. The United States also says they will enforce the Team Spirit joint military exercise this November.

By this, the United States itself reveals that it has completely destroyed the armistice agreement it signed with us in the name of the United Nations with the world as witness.

The Korean peninsula is presently in a state of armistice. In order for this state to continue, the signatories of the armistice agreement should fulfill their obligations stipulated in the agreement. However, the United States is not doing so. The United States, in breach of its obligations stipulated in the Korean Armistice Agreement, has violated and trampled upon [pagihago yurinhaessumyo] the agreements unilaterally and systematically for the past 40 years, and their trampling upon the agreements has become more grave recently. In fact, they do not admit to the validity of the agreement and ignore the value of its existence. This is proven by the U.S. deployment of numerous items of combat equipment, including new-type missiles, into South Korea openly and in broad daylight, and its open actions against us, the other signatory party to the agreement.

Because of this wrongful act of the United States, the armistice Agreement has become a blank sheet of paper, and the situation on the Korean peninsula is becoming more grave. In fact, the armistice agreement has now lost its role as a systematic device to prevent aggravation of tension and danger of war.

Because of the U.S. maneuvers, the armistice supervisory mechanism has also been paralyzed. The United States unilaterally forced a surveillance team—which watches over the observance of the armistice agreement and investigates and clarifies violations of the agreement—out of its area in order to hide its violations of the armistice agreement.

The United States has also disabled the armistice mechanism from carrying out its function. The United States unilaterally replaced the senior member of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] with a puppet army general of South Korea who is neither a practical party to the signing of the armistice agreement nor has any real power, qualification, or legal legitimacy. This improper act of the United States, depriving the MAC of its masters, turned the MAC into a nominal [yumyong musirhan] organ that could no longer carry out its proper role.

We can no longer hold out any expectations for the armistice agreement and the armistice mechanism—which are in name only and are used as a camouflage for the U.S. policy of crushing the DPRK. As long as the present armistice system—which stipulates us and the United States as the two parties to hostilities—continues to exist, the acute issues, including the nuclear issue, cannot be settled on the Korean peninsula.

Facts show that only when the armistice agreement is replaced by a peace agreement and a new peace guarantee system is established replacing the present armistice mechanism can the hostile relations between the DPRK and the United States be ended, reconciliation be achieved, and peace and security ensured on the Korean peninsula.

How the United States treats our new proposal for peace negotiations will be a touchstone determining whether they want peace or war. The United States should squarely see the nature and reality of the situation and respond to peace negotiations with us as soon as possible.

Ministry Issues Statement on Rimpac Maneuvers

SK2305102994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 23 May 94

["Korean People Prepared To Counter Rimpac, Foreign Ministry Spokesman"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA)—"The Korean people are not afraid of anyone's military action, but are prepared to counter even the U.S.-orchestrated multinational military action," declares a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a statement today.

Pointing to the scheduled start of the Rimpac manoeuvres, he says:

"The Naval forces of the United States, Japan and the South Korean puppets plan to form the first unified fleet ever in history and stage a joint operation against fleets of other countries.

"This is a military action which must not go unnoticed in view of the arms buildup the United States is forcing in South Korea while seeking 'sanctions' against the DPRK over its fictitious 'nuclear issue.'

"The joint operation is going to be staged by a unified fleet this time while the military bosses of the United States, Japan and South Korea are holding aggressive confabs repeatedly against the DPRK, visiting each other frequently. This is a vivid proof that the three-way military alliance with the United States as the axis, which was formed long ago for stifling the DPRK and other Asian socialist countries, is stepping into the stage of practical action.

"We cannot but be alerted against the United States bringing into the open through such joint operation its intention to force the military action against the DPRK, come what may.

"The Korean people are not afraid of anyone's military action but are prepared to counter the U.S.-orchestrated multinational military action.

"The dangerous military situation created in and around the Korean peninsula today proves the validity and opportuneness of the overture of the DPRK for negotiations to establish a durable peace arrangement that will replace the military armistice machine in Korea and urgently demands its early realisation.

"The United States must know that it is a reasonable act either in view of the interests of the United States itself or in view of the guarantee of regional peace to respond to the peaceful overture of the DPRK, instead of taking adventurous military actions against it with the mobilisation of its satellites.

"Otherwise, the DPRK will no longer be able to discharge its duties under the Korean Armistice Agreement, and the United States must know this."

18, 19 May U.S., ROK Military Exercises Noted

SK2105061394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0544 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on May 18 and 19 mobilized fighters of the marines from overseas bases to stage an air war exercise in coordination with the flying corps of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea, according to military sources.

Participating in the exercise were formations of Japan-based pursuit-assault planes and F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers, A-10 assault planes and OA-10 observation planes of the U.S. Air Force stationed in South Korea.

Meanwhile, on the 19th the South Korean puppets deployed armed forces and large-calibre artillery groups in Inje, Paju and Yonchon counties adjacent to the demilitarized zone of the military demarcation line, and dropped commandos by formations of transport planes and helicopters. And they fired hundreds of shells and large-calibre machinegun bullets.

NODONG SINMUN Warns U.S. 'Conservatives'

SK2305051594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 23 May 94

["No Solution by Pressure"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA)—U.S. hardline conservatives are now intentionally rendering the situation strained with a threat of "sanctions" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while spreading the rumor that the replacement of fuel rods at the 5 megawatt experimental reactor of the DPRK is aimed at extracting plutonium enough for the manufacture of four or five nuclear bombs.

NODONG SINMUN today views their reckless act as a mean trick to block a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, lead the situation to an extreme phase, and find a justification of "sanctions" against the DPRK.

The analyst says:

Some forces are now charging the DPRK with "nuclear arms development" and "challenge to the international community" as regards the just refueling of a reactor in the DPRK. This is nothing but a sinister political plot to pursue another purpose by breaking up dialogue and increasing tension.

To solve the nuclear issue in a fair way through dialogue is the principled stand and consistent policy of the DPRK.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula has not yet been resolved because the United States has put pressure on the DPRK, pursuing a hostile policy for stifling it.

If the United States had renounced such a policy and the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks had been held for a package solution, the DPRK would have been freed from its special status and routine and ad hoc inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] made. And such outstanding matters as the preservation of selected fuel rods and sampling by the IAEA would have been solved automatically.

The U.S. hardline conservatives, however, are persistently intensifying pressure on the DPRK, far from seeking a fair solution. After all, they have only laid big obstacles to the solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, increased tension and helped munitions monopolies gain fabulous profits through arms sale.

If those speaking for the interests of the U.S. munitions industry create obstacles to a fair solution to the nuclear issue, giving precedence to short-sighted interests, it will bring nothing good to the United States itself.

The United States should ponder over the grave consequences to be entailed by its obstruction of a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue.

Anti-U.S. Meeting of Students in North, South

SK2105151894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—An anti-U.S. joint meeting of youth and students in the North and South of Korea and abroad took place here today.

The meeting was addressed by Ho Chang-cho, chairman of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon), and representatives of students and working youths.

Noting that the South side headquarters of Pomchonghaknyon proposed to the North side headquarters to hold an anti-U.S. joint meeting of youth and students in the North and South of Korea and abroad to denounce the U.S. imperialists, the chief culprit in the brutal Kwangju massacre, on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising, the speakers said if the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group was the blood-stained blade of the sword that murdered more than 5,000 citizens and wounded some 14,000 others in Kwangju, its hilt was the United States.

Denouncing the U.S. imperialists' persistent moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK over its fictitious "nuclear issue", they stressed the need for an unremitting struggle to check the U.S. imperialists' nuclear racket, remove the danger of nuclear war hanging over the nation and get the U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea.

They also emphasized that the South Korean youth and students should daringly wage mass struggles to overthrow the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime, a group of despicable flunkeyist-traitors, and establish a genuinely independent democratic government in firm solidarity with the workers, peasants and other sections of people.

They warned that the U.S. imperialists should look squarely at the fighting will of the South Korean youth and students and immediately withdraw from South Korea and that the traitor Kim Yong- sam should step down without delay before facing a stern punishment by the people.

A joint declaration of youth and students in the North and South of Korea and abroad for defending the sovereignty of the nation was read out at the meeting.

The joint declaration says the United States should stop at an early date its nuclear racket against the North and rice market and arms market opening pressure on the South and no longer create difficulties in the Korean people's way for national reunification.

It stresses that the South side's authorities must honestly repent before the whole nation of their policy of dependence on outside forces and flunkeyist treacheries, cancel at once their measure for "tough countermove" against the North and the move to establish an "international cooperation system" with the United States, Japan and other countries, and unconditionally stop suppressing the struggle of youth and students and other people in the South for independence, democracy and national reunification.

The 70 million fellow countrymen should make strenuous efforts for the convocation of a national conference, an arena for the great unity of the whole nation, transcending the differences in political view, religious belief, property status and residence, says the declaration.

1,500 Students Reportedly Hold Rally in Seoul

SK2105131394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1157 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] This is the just-in news. According to broadcast reports from Seoul, some 1,500 students belonging to the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils convened at Seoul Municipal University on 21 May and held a rally for the resolution of inheriting the spirit of the 18 May Kwangju popular resistance and opposing the United States.

In the meeting, the students called on the United States to withdraw its nuclear inspection suppression on the North. Denouncing the United States for imposing unreasonable pressure on the North for its own interests, the participants strongly called for the pullout of the nuclear weapons of the U.S. troops occupying South Korea and the suspension of the commotions of nuclear inspection suppression against the North.

After the rally, the students, in a high spirit, staged a street demonstration and marched toward Chongno Street in groups. As the students finally advanced into Chongno Street at around 1730, the police ran amok to stop them. However, the students continued a violent struggle without yielding to them. This has been the just-in news.

Inauguration of ROK Student Federation Reported

SK2005125794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—The second-term inaugural ceremony of the South Korean Kangwon Provincial Federation of General Student Councils was held on May 4 with the attendance of more than 700 students from fourteen universities, a South Korean newspaper reported.

At the inaugural ceremony Chong Chae-ho, chairman of the General Student Council of Sangji University, called for checking the liberalization of farm produce import, saying the 60,000 fellow students in the province should fight in unity, not compromising with injustice and assuming responsibility for the destiny of the country and of their own.

ROK Opposition Party Demands Kwangju Probe

SK2105113194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The South Korean Democratic Party repeatedly urged a thorough probe into the truth behind the May 18 Kwangju movement for democracy, a Seoul-based radio report said.

At the time of the Kwangju popular uprising in May, 1980, the U.S. imperialists transferred more than 70,000 puppet Army troops, some 150 tanks and armored vehicles and other equipment under their command to the military fascists to suppress the participants in the uprising. And the South Korean military fascist clique massacred over 5,000 people and wounded some 14,000 others in ten odd days.

Addressing a memorial service on the 14th anniversary of the May 18 Kwangju democratic resistance held in Kwangju on May 18, the chairman of the Democratic Party urged the puppet government to probe the truth behind the Kwangju resistance, punish chief culprits in the massacre and pay adequate compensations for it.

Daily Says ROK Dissidents Kept Under Surveillance

SK2105112794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 21 May 94

["Surveillance Violating Human Rights"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets' intelligence and surveillance against the dissidents come under fire in NODONG SINMUN today.

It was exposed in Pusan a few days ago that the puppet police had blacklisted and kept under surveillance several dozen persons of dissident origin who were detained by the puppet authorities on "charges" of involvement in the Kwangju popular uprising and other movements for democracy under the former military dictatorial regimes and are hired at work sites after their release.

This proves that the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique continues resorting to the vicious intelligence and surveillance which were employed by the preceding military dictators as a means of maintaining their military fascist regimes, abandoning the "commitments" to "respect of human rights" and "stop to intelligence and surveillance", which he made when he was taking office.

This also shows that although the traitor Kim Yong-sam declared he reassessed the Kwangju popular uprising as "a movement for democracy", he still brands participants in the uprising as "mobs" and continuously suppresses them overtly and covertly.

The analyst points out:

The South Korean students and people are now calling for the overthrow of the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique and an immediate dismantling of the "Security Planning Board", "secret affairs command", and the puppet police, legacies of the military dictatorial regimes, and other fascist repressive machines.

Human rights violation by the "civilian regime" must be discontinued at once and all the repressive tools be dismantled unconditionally as demanded by the South Korean people. If the Kim Yong-sam clique persists in treacheries, ignoring the demands of the popular masses, it will precipitate its own destruction.

Message Accuses ROK of Abducting DPRK Loggers

SK2105053294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] sent an emergency telephone message to the South Korean puppet board of unification today denouncing the South Korean puppets for kidnapping lumbermen of the North working in the Far East of Russia.

The message was conveyed through the North-South Liaison Office at Panmunjom.

Recalling that the North side had warned against the kidnapping of North's lumbermen by the South side in the far east of Russia, the message said:

Your side kidnapped again our six citizens engaged in normal tree-felling in the Far East of Russia on May 18 and 20 and took them to Seoul.

Such a shameless, inhuman and barbaric act committed by your side against fellow countrymen even in an alien land is a heinous crime destroying harmonious families and increasing the number of families living separated on this land and a deliberate challenge aimed at extremely deteriorating the relations between the North and the South which have alreay reached an impasse. This has aroused irrepressible indignation among the entire fellow countrymen.

Your side's shocking crime can never be covered up with anything nor can it be tolerated.

Though your side is claiming that our lumbermen defected to the South, its maladroit trick is nothing but a drama the deceptive nature of which has already been fully revealed.

The authorities of your side must unconditionally and promptly send all the kidnapped lumbermen back to the North and apologize to the nation and the world for the inhuman crimes it perpetrated, undermining the dignity of the nation in an alien land.

If your side refuse to send them back to the North and continue kidnapping our lumbermen, it would entail grave consequences in the North-South relations as a whole and the South side would have to pay dearly for it.

Your side will be held wholly responsible for all the consequences to be entailed in the North-South relations and history and the nation will never tolerate your side's inhuman and anti-national crimes.

Radio Denounces South's Red Cross President

SK2205055494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1225 GMT 19 May 94

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "Improper Behavior Against Reason"]

[Text] The president of South Korean Red Cross talks like a thief shouting "stop thief" by picking a quarrel with us. In a commemorative speech delivered on the occasion of World Red Cross Day, he said that the North's call for the repatriation of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan—unconverted long-term prisoners—as well as the seriously ill Kim Chi-hyon to the northern half of the Republic is foolish, and that the North is responsible for preventing the exchange of visits by old parents between the North and South from being held, and for the lack of progress in the settlement of the issue of separated families. He also maintained that talks between the North and South Red Coss Societies should be resumed, insisting that the North send the so-called detainees, including crews of Tongjin No. 27, to the South.

Such remarks by the South Korean Red Cross president are inappropriate for a man of the Red Cross who should regard humanity as sacred and saving mankind from misfortune, as a basic mission. Therefore, we cannot but regard his remarks as unreasonable and preposterous. He even opened himself up to criticism with public opinion at home and abroad by making absurd remarks in his 22 April telephone message sent to our side.

Nevertheless, he made such remarks this time again. Regarding the exchange of visits by old parents and the issue of settling separated families, he talked as though we had broken a North-South agreement. This is not true. His remarks distorting the truth can never be understood in today's bright world.

Since an agreement was reached between the North and South Red Cross Societies regarding the establishment of a Panmunjom meeting place for separated family members and the exchange of visits by old parents between the North and South, the South Korean authorities have early on forged cunning strategies with the backing of gangsters of the Agency for the National Security Planning and have aggravated tension extremely [kuktoro] on the Korean peninsula by conducting powder-reeking, [hwayangnae nanun] large-scale war exercises against us. It is already well-known that they are responsible for preventing the above-mentioned works from being carried out. We, therefore, are not responsible for its failure, but instead South Korea is totally responsible for it.

Regarding our proposal for the repatriation of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, who refused to convert from communism, and the seriously ill Kim Chi-hyon to the northern half of the Republic, he said that the North interprets the humanity of the Red Cross Society and international humanitarian law in its own way. However, it is the South Korean authorities who interpret it in their own way, running counter to the regulation on war and international law.

Article 118 of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 regarding the treatment for the prisoners of war defines that the prisoners of war should be released and repatriated immediately after a hostile action ends. Therefore, old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan should have been repatriated to the northern half of the Republic after the conclusion of an Armistice Agreement. This is an obligation of international law, as well as moral responsibility which South Korea should assume responsibility for.

That the South is stubbornly insisting that they are not prisoners is merely an unreasonable obstinacy aimed to avoid the criminal responsibility of unfairly detaining and suppressing them and to keep them in South Korea to the last.

So is the issue of nationality obtained by old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan. Under the condition that South Korean authorities did not return them but kept them under detention, they had to do so to live on. If they had wished to live in South Korea, why would they ask the International Committee of the Red Cross to help them be repatriated to the North?

The South Korean Red Cross is charging old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan with violating the National Security Law, which is being strongly denounced and refuted by the international community, and pin unreasonable crimes on them by labeling them with so-called activities and operations to trample the government. This is indeed an unfair treatment ignoring the international law on war and postwar measures and interpreting it at its convenience.

The demand regarding the crew of the Tongjin No. 27 is also unreasonable babblings. The Tongjin No. 27, which had infiltrated deep into our side's territorial water in the West Sea, was thoroughly a spy boat. The head fisherman and captain on board confessed that it was a spy boat. The crew on board cursed the South Korean authorities who used them for espionage and said they would never return to South Korea.

We never promised anyone that we would return the boat and that could never have happened. The president of the South Korean Red Cross said the detainees should be returned but there are none in our Republic. What we have are defectors who chose our social system according to their own faith and who came with their longing for the northern half of the Republic.

It is the meanest act without any human moral or conscience to keep finding fault with us reversing black and white despite the facts.

Today, the acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, in a telephone message sent to the South Korean Red Cross, once again strongly urged the South side's Red Cross to immediately return old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, and Kim Chi-yon in conformity with international law.

The South Korean Red Cross should stop trying to keep old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, and Kim Chi-yon, daughter of unconverted prisoner Kim Pyong-chu, under detention while playing servant to the South Korean authorities, but take steps to immediately return them to the northern half of the Republic according to their own demand and fair public opinion. This is the duty of the Red Cross.

If the South Korean Red Cross continues to refuse to return them and use them for insidious political purposes, it will be more condemned by the international community.

Delegation of American Committee Departs

SK2105114694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1109 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The delegation of the American Committee on Korea led by its Executive Director John M. Swomley left here today after concluding its 12-day visit to Korea.

During its stay in Korea, the delegation visited Mangyongdae, the Tower of the Chuche Idea, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the monument to the victorious fatherland liberation war, Panmunjom and other places.

After visiting Mangyongdae, the head of the delegation said he thought a lot, noting that President Kim Il-song who was born into a poor family is a people's leader.

Witnessing the concrete wall built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line, he stressed that the United States must pull its forces and nuclear weapons out of South Korea.

ROK Said Suppressing People's Cause of Independence

SK2105112594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1105 GMT 21 May 94

["South Korean People's Cause of Independence, Democracy and National Reunification Is Invincible"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The people's struggle for independence, democracy and national reunification is going on unremittingly in South Korea in spite of brutal suppression and despicable intrigues by the fascist clique, and their desire will surely be realized, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article charges that the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique under the patronage of the U.S. imperialists are intensifying fascist suppression of the South Korean students and other sections of people who rose in struggle, while resorting to wicked intrigues to disorganize their movement from within through its reformation.

The article reads in part:

The puppet clique are, above all, trying to decompose the fundamental nature of the South Korean people's movement as one for independence, democracy and national reunification.

They let their stooges, venal scholars and pseudo activists argue that there is no need to put up the slogan of independence, democracy and national reunification in the South Korean people's movement vociferating about the "change of the times", and even contend that there cannot and should not be a fight under the "civilian" regime.

Their argument that the slogan of independence, democracy and national reunification should not be put up in the South Korean people's movement is, in essence, an extremely wicked and cunning trick to deny and decompose the fundamental character of the movement as one for anti-U.S. independence, anti-fascist democracy and national reunification and to cut off the lifeline of the movement boasting of scores of years of their unremitting struggle.

The South Korean puppet clique also preach compromise with the "civilian" regime, not head-on confrontation with it or a fight for its overthrow.

Their talk that the Kim Yong-sam regime should not be overthrown, but a compromise should be made with it, is, in the final analysis, as good as saying the people should continue to meekly obey the U.S. imperialists' colonial domination, not complain about dictatorship and fascism and keep mum about whatever they do against national reunification.

They preach "petition" and "nonviolence", encouraging "dialogue" and "compromise", but it is a nonsensical talk under such fascist system as that of South Korea where suppression is going unhindered.

Their preach is an artifice to lull the anti-Kim Yong-sam sentiments of the South Korean people, keep them from rising in fierce struggles and, furthermore, to totally disarm their movement and make them submit to the principle of non-resistance and capitulationism.

The article stresses:

The South Korean people's desire cannot be realized so long as such sycophant traitors, fascist dictators as Kim Yong-sam are left alone.

The South Korean people, therefore, should kindle fiercer flames of struggle to overthrow the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime and establish a genuinely independent democratic regime.

Japan Called 'Hypocrite' for Plutonium 'Concealment'

SK2105111294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 21 May 94

["Hypocrite Unmasked"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The recently exposed concealment of 70 kilograms of undeclared pure-powder plutonium in Japan has brought into a glaring light the true color of Japan as a hypocrite trying to deliberately fool the world, while producing and stockpiling a large quantity of plutonium, says MINJU CHOSON today.

The analyst continues:

The Japanese reactionaries, captive to the desire to convert Japan into a nuclear power, have promoted the introduction, deployment and stockpile of nuclear weapons behind the spurious curtain of "three non-nuclear principles." They are now stepping up nuclear armament, raising a hue and cry over "the nuclear suspicion" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its "nuclear issue."

It was the first time that undeclared plutonium was discovered in Japan. But nobody can tell how much plutonium is concealed in Japan.

The recently exposed concealment of plutonium makes us cast doubt on the impartiality of the International Atomic Energy Agency in its inspections.

The IAEA arbitrarily branded the fledgling peaceful nuclear activities of such small countries as ours as "nuclear development", while conniving at the dangerous nuclear activities of Japan. This is obviously an undisguised application of a double standard.

The Japanese reactionaries must stop the despicable nuclear gamble, open to the public the quantity of the concealed plutonium and behave themselves.

The United States and the IAEA would be well advised to pay due attention to Japan's nuclear armament, adhering to the principle of impartiality.

Daily Urges Japan To Give Up Nuclear Armament

SK2205085194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0823 GMT 22 May 94

["Japan in the Dock as Nuclear Criminal"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 22 (KCNA)—The recent discovery of a large quantity of nuclear material in Japan evidently shows once again that her design for nuclear armament has gone to extremes, notes NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst says:

The Japanese reactionaries invented a "nuclear suspicion" about the DPRK and have acted as if they were a "nuclear judge". Expressing dissatisfaction at the adequate inspections of the DPRK, they have resorted to pressure demanding a "special inspection", an "additional inspection" and kicked up a row in an effort to make the United Nations impose "sanctions" on the DPRK.

They even prepared an "emergency legislative arrangement" for a dispatch of their "self-defence forces" to the Korean peninsula, talking about "response" in case the UN should adopt a resolution on "sanctions".

The recent discovery of plutonium kept in hiding made it all the clearer why Japan has been so hell bent on false propaganda about "nuclear suspicion" on the DPRK.

It is, indeed, a mean intrigue that Japan has engaged in hostile acts against the DPRK, spreading a groundless lie to brand it as a nuclear criminal, while keeping a large quantity of nuclear weapons- grade material in hiding.

Japan, a nuclear criminal, has tried desperately to place others in the dock as a nuclear criminal, but she herself has to sit in it.

Japan must stop at once her intrigues to do harm to the DPRK over the "nuclear issue", clearly declare to the international community the total amount of plutonium concealed nationwide and give up her nuclear armament.

WPK Secretary Meets With PRC Delegation

SK2005152594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], today met and had a friendly talk with the visiting delegation of the party school of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China led by Vice-president Liu Shengyu.

Present on the occasion were Vice-president of Kim Il-song Higher Party School U Tal-ho and a councillor of the Chinese Embassy here.

Politburo Member Meets With PRC Delegation

SK2005152994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—Kye Ung-tae, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, met and had a friendly talk with the visiting delegation of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China led by Deputy Chief Procurator Liang Guoqing at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Prosecutor-general Kim Chang- uk and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai.

Article by Russian Paper Praises Kim Chong-il

SK2105113994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 21 May 94

["'Important Lesson From Struggle for the Cause of Socialism'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—Papers here Friday carried "Important Lesson From Struggle for the Cause of Socialism", an article by Mikhail Zemskov, chief editor of the Russian paper PATRIOT.

In the article the author wrote that the reality in which socialism has suffered a setback and capitalism revived in some countries in recent years gave the serious lesson that of paramount importance in smashing challenges of the imperialist allied forces and steadily advancing the cause of socialism is to correctly solve the question of succeeding to the revolutionary cause, the question of succeeding to leadership.

Stating that he has read many famous works of Comrade Kim Chong- il including "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party", "On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building" and "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable" and visited Korea on several occasions and made a deep analysis of the reality, he said he deeply realized in this course that the question of succeeding to leadership is not only the basic factor of the advance of the socialist cause in Korea but the main point decisive of the rise or fall of the international communist movement.

The socialist cause, the revolutionary cause of chuche which was started and has been developed by Comrade Kim Il-song is being successfully carried forward by the heir to him, Comrade Kim Chong-il, to accomplishment, the author wrote, and went on:

Characteristic of the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il for carrying forward the cause of socialism to accomplishment is that he is accelerating the cause of socialism at faster pace not only by defending and succeeding to the outstanding ideological and theoretical activities and immortal exploits of Comrade Kim Il-song but also by developing and enriching them in conformity with the requirements of the development of the times and with the aspirations of the people.

In carrying forward the cause of socialism, the revolutionary cause of chuche, to accomplishment Comrade Kim Chong-il has effected new innovations in the revolution and construction as a whole, always set bold goals and attained them successfully. As a result, fundamental changes have taken place in all fields including the party and state affairs, economic and cultural construction and the building of revolutionary Armed Forces.

The expansion in scope and development of the cause of socialism, the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by Comrade Kim Il-song in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, fully show the great personality of Comrade Kim Chong-il as an outstanding and tested leader.

What I must stress in particular among the victories and successes made by Comrade Kim Chong-il in carrying forward and developing the cause of socialism is the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

In Korea today the whole party, the entire Army and all the people are unfailingly loyal to their leader, devotedly upholding his cause and firmly united ideologically and purposefully and In- moral obligations.

All the people regard Comrade Kim Chong-il, an illustrious leader, as their father and are united behind him in one mind. Herein lie the source of the invincibility and durability of the Korean-style socialism.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is shattering to pieces the anti-DPRK, anti-socialist moves of the imperialists, defending the security of the country and the dignity of the nation and safeguarding and developing the socialist system with its invincible revolutionary Armed Forces and with the might of single-hearted unity.

Conclusions drawn from the present realities of the DPRK, now a socialist bastion, and of the international communist movement which is undergoing ordeals in face of all challenges bespeak that the cause of socialism will be firmly defended and accomplished if leadership over the revolution and construction is carried forward by an outstanding leader, but, otherwise it will play into the hands of the renegades of socialism and end in failure.

The DPRK where the question of succeeding to leadership has been solved successfully by Comrade Kim Chong-il, a genuine people's leader, serves as a model of world socialism, as a beacon of hope for the people who are fighting for socialism and communism.

Political and public figures and progressive people of many countries in the world look up to and revere Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of the Korean people, as the outstanding leader of the present times and are rising in the struggle to defend and develop the cause of socialism.

Socialism, the ideal and aspiration of mankind, is sure to be crowned with victory.

Mongolian Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang 21 May

SK2105151494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1458 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Federation of Peace and Friendship Organizations of Mongolia and the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Society headed by D. Bilegt, general secretary of the federation, arrived in Pyongyang today.

It was met at the airport by Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairwoman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and vice-chairwoman of the Korea-Mongolia Friendship Society, and Sh. Gungaardorj, Mongolian ambassador to Korea.

President Kim Il-song Greets Yemeni Leader

SK2105112494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1106 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, on the occasion of the fourth founding anniversary of the Republic.

The message wished him and the Yemeni people success in the efforts to consolidate the unification and stability of the country.

Pyongyang Papers Mark National Day of Cameroon

SK2005130494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 20 May 94

["National Day of Cameroon"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—Pyongyang-based papers today observe the national day of Cameroon.

The Cameroonian people who have registered successes in the endeavours to consolidate the national independence in the past days are today making energetic efforts to promote the national unity and the stability of the country against the interference of outside forces and develop the economy, MINJU CHOSON in a signed article says, and goes on:

Pursuing the non-aligned policy externally, the Cameroonian Government is strengthening the friendly and cooperative relations with many countries and striving for peace in Africa.

Though Korea and Cameroon are far away from each other geographically, their peoples have long since forged and developed the friendly and cooperative relations.

Believing that these relations between Korea and Cameroon will further develop in the future, the Korean people wish the Cameroonian people greater success in the work for national unity and economic development.

Foreign Media Denounce U.S. 'Criminal Acts'

SK2105110594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 21 May 94

["United States, Violator of Korean Armistice Agreement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—Foreign public and press circles denounced the criminal act of the U.S. imperialists who have turned the Korean peninsula into a dangerous area of a nuclear war.

The Libyan paper AL JAHAF AL AHDAR in a commentary said that the United States deployed its military bases in South Korea under the pretext of "protecting" South Korea from "communist threat" right after World War II.

The United States has divided Korea into the North and the South recording another stained chapter in its history, it said.

The Vietnamese paper NHAN DAN in an article entitled "South Korea, Largest U.S. Nuclear Base in Far East" exposed that the United States built more than 200 military establishments and 40 big military bases in South Korea and deployed there nuclear weapons amounting to 55 percent of those in the Asia-Pacific.

The Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA reported that Washington has kept some 40,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea and deployed over 1,000 nuclear weapons including Lance, Hawk and Honest John missiles. The agency noted the recent deployment of formations of new-type tactical helicopters and "Patriot" missiles is a new strategy of the United States of arms buildup in South Korea.

The Indian paper DELHI SAMACHAR said that the U.S. imperialists shipped nuclear weapons into South Korea, regarding it as a bridgehead and a nuclear forward base for aggression on Asia and domination over the world.

Govind Narain Srivastava, secretary general of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea, said that despite of the unanimous denunciation of the Korean people and the world public, the United States introduced "Patriot" new-type missiles into South Korea and planned to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a nuclear war gamble.

The United States has systematically violated articles of the Korean Armistice Agreement for 40 years in the past contrary to its duty as a signatory to the agreement, he noted.

Foreign Groups Support DPRK Peace Proposal

SK2005151194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—A statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry on establishing a new peace arrangement was fully supported by organizations and public figures of different countries.

The Finland-Korea Association and the Finish Solidarity Committee for Korea's reunification in a letter to the United States administration adopted at a joint meeting, called on it to accept the proposal to establish a new peace arrangement on the Korean peninsula at an early date and show in action its efforts to ensure peace.

The Secretariat of the Communist Party of Finland (Unity) in a statement said that the present situation requires the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement immediately and establishment of a new peace arrangement on the Korean peninsula, and expressed the hope that the Korean problem would be solved in a peaceful way in any case.

Negotiations to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement and establish a new peace arrangement for creditably guaranteeing a durable peace and security of the Korean peninsula will open a vista to remove the hostile relations between the DPRK and the United States and resolve the nuclear issue and other complicated problems in this area, the Popular Party for Democracy and Development of Ghana said in a statement.

Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism), pointed out in a statement that they support the proposal for a peace agreement, and expressed the belief that it would help solve the dispute and achieve peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

We call upon the peace-loving people of the world to actively in denouncing the U.S. hostile policy toward Korea join said Dilip Barua, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist).

He positively supported the just proposal of the DPRK to establish a new peace arrangement which will replace the Armistice Agreement.

Reunification Liaison Committee Issues Bulletin

SK2105061294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0538 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace in Korea printed a bulletin on May 10.

The bulletin carried articles entitled "Struggle of South Korean Democratic Forces Against the U.S. Imperialists' Aggression", "Members of the International Environmental Organisation 'Greenpeace' Participate in Demonstration Against Nuclear Waste Pollution in South Korea" and so on.

The bulletin in an article headlined "The Korean Armistice Agreement Must Be Replaced by Peace Agreement Without Delay" says that the introduction of latest arms equipment into South Korea by the United States is a gross violation of the Korean armistice agreement. It calls on all the democratic forces and peace organisations of the world to join in the movement for putting an immediate end to the escalation of the dangerous tension on the Korean peninsula and for replacing the Korean armistice agreement with a peace agreement.

It carried the gist of the April 29 statement of a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry denouncing the hostile moves of the Japanese authorities against the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

Kim Il-song Selected Works, Vol. 10, Published

SK2005130194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—The Workers' Party of Korea publishing house brought out the volume 10 of "Kim Il-song Selected Works", an encyclopedia of the chuche idea which carries famous works of the great leader President Kim Il-song in chronological order.

The volume contains 33 famous works of those published by the great leader from January 1987 to December 1992.

It comprehensively consummates the outstanding ideas, theories and policies of the great leader on further accelerating the building of socialism and communism and successfully achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the cause of global independence, under the uplifted revolutionary banner of the chuche idea to meet the requirements of the developing reality in which the cause of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea has been propelled, and the precious achievements and experiences gained in the struggle for their realisation.

Consummated there are the unique ideas, theories and policies giving answers to the theoretical and practical questions arising in different domains of the revolution and construction including the question of effecting a new turn in science, education, public health and socialist culture and the question of further strengthening and developing the People's Army.

Kim Chong-il Sends Gifts to Maternity Hospital

SK2105061094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0525 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il recently bestowed again a benevolent solicitude upon the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

He sent large quantities of baby's clothes of various styles for boys and girls, precious pharmaceuticals needed for the manufacture of medicines and articles to be used in ensuring medical services on a higher level.

Always paying deep attention to the work of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, he had sent more than seven tons of wild honey and over ten tons of unshelled pine nuts on three occasions this year alone.

The hospital completed in March, 1980, is a comprehensive medical service base appointed with latest equipment, which was built for women and children on the initiative and according to a plan of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The total floor space of the hospital is over 60,000 square metres.

The hospital has a total of 1,500 beds, of which 600 beds are for the obstetrical section, 400 for the gynaecological section and 500 for just-born babies.

Kim Chong-il Thanks Hospital, Factory Workers

SK2105060894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, extended thanks to medical workers of people's hospitals who had made active contributions to the promotion of health of People's Army soldiers and set good examples in aiding the People's Army. Among them were medical workers of the clinical section No. 2 of the Neurological Hospital of the Korean General Red Cross Hospital, the Sunchon City People's Hospital and the Sariwon Railway Administration Hospital.

They have enjoyed love and respect of soldiers and civilians by showing all sincerity in medical services to the population and in medical treatment of soldiers.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also extended thanks to the officials and employees of the Tongdaewon garment factory in Pyongyang.

Over the past 20 years the officials and employees of this factory have overfulfilled the factory's annual assignments of the national economy on all indices and done a lot of good job for the society and the people.

Kim Chong-il Thanks Korean People's Army Unit

SK2005125994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—Supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the officers and men of the Pak Yong-ho unit of the KPA.

The soldiers made a great contribution to building, preserving and managing the revolutionary site which is associated with the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history and the immortal revolutionary feats of the party and the leader.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also extended thanks to the men of merits in Hoeryong city of North Hamgyong Province who had helped toward the management of the revolutionary site.

NODONG SINMUN on Peoples' 'Noble Traits'

SK2005131494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 20 May 94

["NODONG SINMUN on Noble Traits of Korean People Sharing Same Destiny With the Party"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—In Korea today the leader and the people form an integrated whole, and the Korean revolution is advancing triumphantly under whatever storm and stress because the entire people uphold the party and the leader with loyalty and share the same destiny with the party, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The daily comes out with a by-lined article entitled "Sharing the Same Destiny With the Party Is Noble Traits of Our People" on the lapse of 30 years since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il assumed leadership over the party affairs.

It quotes Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The dignified life and honour of a revolutionary lie in sharing the same destiny with the party and dying at his post of duty while fighting it out for the sake of the revolution."

Noting that the imperialists have left no stone unturned in a bid to isolate and stifle the Korean-style socialism, the life and soul of the Korean people, the article says:

Under such circumstances our people repose unquestioned trust in Comrade Kim Chong-il and are defending him and firmly resolved to fight with fortitude along the road indicated by the party, entrusting their destinies to the party and the leader, no matter what the others say.

The noble ideological and spiritual world of the Korean people determined to share the same destiny with the party finds clear manifestation in the fact that they firmly believe in and follow their illustrious leader as the defender of their destinies, as their mental support and are vigorously struggling with an unshakable determination to defend him politically and ideologically and with their lives.

In Korea today all the people firmly believe in and follow Comrade Kim Chong-il as the defender of their destinies.

It is because the unshakable will to firmly believe in and follow our general had settled in their hearts that corporal Kim Chol-chin and Private 1st Class Kim Kyong-chol of the Korean People's Security Forces could fight in defence of their honour as revolutionary soldiers under the difficult circumstances in which they happened to be drifted overboard to the enemy-controlled area.

The Korean people's unquestioned worship of the dear leader is so strong and invariable as they cherish through their life experience the greatness of his ideas, leadership ability and personality.

A countless number of revolutionary soldiers becoming a fort and shield to firmly defend Comrade Kim Chong-il in any storm and stress and unhesitatingly laying down even their youth and lives on this road have been witnessed among the Korean people. Among them are revolutionary soldiers who plunged themselves without hesitation into a raging fire to carry away portraits of their leaders to a safe place, and heroic soldiers who laid down their precious youthful lives by covering handgrenades on the point of explosion with their bodies.

The noble ideological and spiritual world of the Korean people determined to share the same destiny with the party also is clearly expressed in that they are doing their utmost to repay the deep benevolence of their leader who has brought their own destinies into full bloom.

Noble traits are being displayed highly among our people; they volunteer into grand socialist construction sites, coal and ore mines and rural villages in groups, not seeking any fame or reward, in order to carry the intentions and plans of the party into effect; they faithfully perform their duties at their posts till the last moments of their lives.

This clearly shows the noble spiritual world of the Korean people determined to silently devote their whole lives to the struggle for implementing the ideas and policies of their leader with one mind.

Article Published on 'Bourgeois Humanitarianism'

SK2005152194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 20 May 94

["Reactionary Nature of Bourgeois Humanitarianism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article contributed by Dr. Choe Chol-ung exposing the reactionary nature of bourgeois humanitarianism loudly advertised by the imperialists and the reactionaries of history.

Noting that humanitarianism assumes the class nature in every respect, the article says:

Bourgeois humanitarianism is the world outlook reflecting the demand and interests of the capitalist class. The unscientific and reactionary nature of the bourgeois humanitarianism lies in that it is based on a wrong viewpoint that regards social human beings as individual biological beings that exist, dominated by nature, adapting themselves to the circumstances according to the instinct of animals, by bringing the social human beings down to the level of wild animals.

The reactionary nature of bourgeois humanitarianism is clearly manifested, first of all, in its deceptive preaching of "philanthropy" and "humanity."

It is the universal law governing the capitalist society that the stronger swallows up the weaker. Humanity and philanthropy are unthinkable in the capitalist society where exploitation and oppression prevail.

Love and sympathy cannot be expected between the present-day wage slave-owners who abandon themselves to pleasure by overdriving the workers and the wage slave workers who have everything trampled down under harsh oppression and exploitation.

The reactionary nature is also concentrically revealed in hypocritical preaching of "human rights" and "freedom."

In the capitalist society based on selfishness, the principle "human beings are wolves toward human beings" prevails in human relations. Therefore, the society is replete with falsity, hypocrisy, swindle, fraud, antagonism, jealousy, plot and enmity which are fundamentally contrary to humanity.

The popular masses cannot enjoy genuine freedom and rights in that society where it is the universal phenomenon to antagonize each other and sacrifice others for one's own ease and pleasure.

Genuine humanitarianism can never be actualized in the capitalist society where human conscience, justice and all other human things are ruthlessly violated by money.

The falsity of "humanitarianism" advertized by the imperialists and the reactionaries is proved by the reality of capitalism.

In the capitalist society where a handful of capitalist class monopolizes everything including the state power and means of production, the working people are excluded from the rights to the exercise of sovereignty and the socio-political activities. Worse still, they are denied the rights to working, food, clothing, housing, medical treatment and learning.

The situation is pretty much the same in those countries where socialism has collapsed and capitalism revived. The collapse of socialism has brought to the people an inhumanitarian society, capitalism where exploitation, oppression and social inequalities prevail and the human nature is trampled underfoot, not a "humanitarian and democratic society."

The humanitarian idea can never be realised in the capitalist society where class oppression and confrontation constitute the mainstay of social relations.

KPA Soldiers Commended for Preserving Site

SK2105150094 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of our party and people, has sent thanks of the Party Central Military Committee and the supreme commander to the officers and men of the KPA unit to which Comrade Pak Yong-ho belongs for making a contribution to building, preserving, and managing the revolutionary site. He has also extended thanks to the men of merits in Hoeryong city.

Taking the work of building, preserving, and managing the revolutionary site associated with the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history and the immortal revolutionary feats of the party and the leader as their due responsibility as the leader's army and the party's army, the officers and men of the KPA unit to which Comrade Pak Yong-ho belongs participated in this work as a group. They have intensified the indoctrination work on the revolutionary tradition through their visit to the site. In addition, using their leisure time between trainings, they made a great contribution to preserving the revolutionary site to its original state handing it down for ages to come.

Taking the pride and dignity in living in a place with a historic background, some 80 men of merits, including Yu Tae-kyu, in Hoeryong city resolved to take part in managing the revolutionary site in the city in February 1991. Since then, they have carried out the management befitting masters. The have not only transplanted some 800 rare trees and flowers and set up new audio system around the site, but also prepared numerous materials and equipment necessary for the construction of the site and took part in the work of introducing the revolutionary site.

Meetings to deliver KPA Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il's thanks were held at relevant sectors. Functionaries concerned, the soldiers of the People's Army, and the men of merits were present in the meetings.

In the meetings, the comrade supreme commander's thanks were delivered amid the participants' fervent applause. Discussions for resolution were held at the meetings.

A letter of pledge and a resolution to KPA Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted in the meetings.

Calcium Silicate Brick Houses Built for Families

SK2105114094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—Many calcium silicate brick houses are under construction in Korea.

In recent years alone, more than 400 rural villages of calcium silicate brick houses have made their appearance in some 120 cities, counties and ri. Dwelling houses for more than 35,000 families have been built in these villages.

Houses of this type are very convenient for rural life. Each flat has a floor space of 90 to 120 square metres.

Cooking and heating are done by methane gas at the dwelling houses in many rural villages including Yongjin-ri, Kaechon City.

The construction of calcium silicate brick houses in Korea began at the end of the 1980s.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, always paying deep attention to the betterment of the people's living, saw to it that calcium silicate brick production bases were built in Anju, Pihyon and Hamhung to more satisfactorily meet the increasing needs for dwelling houses, and wisely led their construction. Thus, the construction of calcium silicate brick factories with a total production capacity of 1,000 million bricks was completed successfully in two years.

Comrade Kim Chong-il saw designs of calcium silicate brick houses in May, 1986. Saying it was the wish of the great leader President Kim Il-song and his own determination to enable all the people to live in such good houses, he stressed that such houses should be built on an extensive basis in Pyongyang and local cities and rural villages.

As a result, peculiar dwelling houses have appeared in Pyongyang and provincial, city and county seats and rural villages.

South Korea

Radio Reports U.S. To Resume Talks With DPRK

SK2005233194 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 20 May 94

[By Mun Chae-cho from Washington]

[Text] It has been learned that in a meeting of the U.S. National Security Council held early this morning at the White House, the United States has decided to hold a third round of high- level talks with North Korea as soon as possible. In today's meeting, the United States has reportedly discussed the resumption of the third round of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks in Geneva next month, at the earliest, as a result of the International Atomic Energy Agency's report that North Korea is cooperating on the nuclear inspections.

Government Not To Object

SK2305062794 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 23 May 94 p 1

[Text] The ROK Government reportedly came to the conclusion on 22 May not to object to the exclusion of the issue of resuming North-South dialogue from the official agenda of the third-round North Korea-U.S. talks.

The government also established a policy that the government will propose a delegates' contact for high-level North-South talks and seek ways to improve North-South relations in general by holding various joint commission meetings, including the Joint Nuclear Control Commission, if North Korea agrees to returning to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and inspections of undeclared facilities in the third round of the North Korea-U.S. talks.

The government policy is a step forward compared to when it withdrew the precondition of the special envoy exchange for the third-round of North Korea-U.S. talks announced on 15 April. The policy is based on the analysis that, in the current situation, assurance of North Korea's nuclear transparency can be hastened by momentarily separating the resumption of North-South dialogue from the nuclear issue to prevent it from being a point of dispute.

A high-ranking government official said: "The government position is that it would not object to not discussing the resumption of North-South dialogue, including the implementation of mutual nuclear inspections between the North and the South, during the North Korea- U.S. talks."

The official continued: "Although North Korea disapproves of the resumption of North-South dialogue, it will be inevitable after the settlement of North Korea-U.S. talks, for instance, during the process of supporting the replacement of North Korea's graphite moderated reactors with light water reactors."

Linkage of the resumption of the Team Spirit exercise, which had been discussed in connection with nuclear inspections of North Korea, with the future development of North-South relations, is reportedly undergoing careful consideration by the government.

ROK, U.S. To Discuss Renewed Talks

SK2305094994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0936 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States are expected to have working-level talks in Washington very shortly to discuss matters related to third-round U.S.-North Korea high-level talks.

Deputy Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku said at a National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee session Monday that the third-round U.S.-North Korea meeting could be agreed on before long at the U.S.-North working-level contacts.

A South Korea-U.S. working-level meeting is set to be held in Washington soon in connection with the U.S.-North Korea high-level talks likely to take place shortly in pace with a progress in the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities, Yi said.

Ambassador Leaves for U.S. on 'Nuclear Impasse'

SK2105082694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0602 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 21 (YONHAP)—Ambassador for Nuclear Affairs Kim Sam-hun on Friday left for Washington to discuss the North Korean nuclear impasse.

During his stay in Washington for four to five days, Kim is scheduled to meet with U.S. Government officials including Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci to evaluate the present state of the North Korean nuclear issue.

They will focus on joint Korea-U.S countermeasures in view of the inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

South Korea and the United States will reportedly agree on opening a third round of talks between Washington and Pyongyang next month if Pyongyang accepts the IAEA's proposal to stop refueling the 5-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon and if the spent fuel rods that have already been removed are stored in good shape.

In addition, Seoul and Washington will determine their position on subjects to be discussed at the Washington-Pyongyang meeting.

DPRK Envoy Says North Showed Fuel Rods to IAEA

SK2005144794 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1400 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by Beijing-based correspondent Yi Tong-sik]

[Text] Chu Chang-chun, North Korean ambassador to China, in a news conference today, said that North Korea showed the nuclear fuel rods being replaced at the nuclear reactor in Yongbyon to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspection team.

In a news conference for foreign reporters held at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing this afternoon, Ambassador Chu stressed that although North Korea showed the IAEA inspectors the nuclear fuel rods, North Korea does not have the obligation to permit any inspection, thus hinting that an actual nuclear inspection was not made.

Ambassador Chu also said that if a package solution is agreed upon on the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula at the third round of talks between North Korea and the United States, the IAEA could supervise [kamsi] the replacement of the fuel rods at any time, thus making it clear that North Korea will link the nuclear inspection with its third round of talks with the United States.

Deputy Premier on North's Fuel Rods Change

SK2305095894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0945 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Yi Hong- ku said on Monday the exchange of fuel rods at a 5-megawatt atomic reactor at Yongbyon, North Korea is believed to have been 10 to 15 percent complete so far. Yi's remarks mean that of the total 8,100 fuel rods at the reactor, about 1,000 have been replaced.

Speaking at a National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee meeting, Yi said the initial report from an IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspection team indicated that there is no significant problem with respect to the storage and future gauging of selected fuel bars from the reactor. "The IAEA will have full-fledged negotiations with North Korea over this matter beginning Tuesday," Yi said.

Earlier in the day at a breakfast meeting hosted by the Korean Newspaper Editors Association, Yi said his recent remarks that "the South-North denuclearization declaration will be made void and null if North Korea were found to have even a half nuclear weapon" was the expression of his view directed indirectly toward the United States.

Yi made the remarks when asked by Democratic Party Rep. Namkung Chin what was his view of a recent statement of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, in which Perry spoke as if his country would connive at one or two nuclear weapons in the possession of North Korea.

IAEA Negotiation Team Arrives in Beijing

SK2305024894 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 23 May 94

[Report by Correspondent Yi Tong-sik from Beijing]

[Text] While additional inspections of North Korea are smoothly coming to an end, a working-level negotiation team of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] arrived in Beijing this morning. The two-man negotiation team led by Inspections Bureau chief (Perry Corse), will leave for Pyongyang at 1520 tomorrow afternoon [0620 GMT 24 May] via Koryo Airlines after staying in Beijing today. While there, the team will conduct negotiations with relevant North Korean officials over the replacement of nuclear fuel rods.

The three inspectors, including chief of Inspections Section (Heinonen), who have been watching the replacement of nuclear fuel rods while conducting additional inspections in Yongbyon after entering North Korea on 19 May, will conclude its additional inspections today and leave Pyongyang tomorrow. However, the possibility remains that the three-man inspection team will present to the working-level negotiation team a report on the comprehensive status surrounding the replacement of nuclear fuel rods and join the negotiation team.

It is expected that the working-level negotiations will proceed for at least four to five days this time. There is concern, however, that if both sides should stand up to each other tensely by sticking only to their previous positions, the negotiations will directly stalemate like last August's nuclear negotiations.

Report on Talks Prospects

SK2305065594 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0516 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] A negotiation team of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] arrived in Beijing this morning. This negotiation team will enter North Korea tomorrow and have consultations over details of how it will go about witnessing the replacement of nuclear fuel rods at the Yongbyon atomic reactor. Correspondent Yi Tong-sik provides us with this report from Beijing:

[Begin recording] Two IAEA inspectors led by Inspections Bureau chief (Perry Corse) arrived in Beijing via Scandinavian Airways this morning. At the airport, he said only that he would enter Pyongyang via Koryo Airlines tomorrow afternoon and have discussions over technical matters in North Korea.

He added that he would soon meet the team conducting additional inspections in North Korea, including Inspections Section Chief (Heinonen). Therefore, he is expected to be presented with a comprehensive report in North Korea, from Inspections Section Chief (Heinonen) on the status of witnessing and observing the replacement of nuclear fuel rods at the 5-MW atomic reactor in Yongbyon and the sample-taking at the radiochemical laboratory.

Although the IAEA negotiation team says that it will only have discussions over technical matters, the main goal of the negotiations of this time is reportedly to ask the North Korean side to take necessary measures for confirming, and continuing to confirm in the future, too, whether nuclear material has not been diverted since the atomic reactor began operations in (?1986) until now.

Those in diplomatic circles in Beijing predict, however, that these negotiations will not proceed smoothly, because although the IAEA teams are being allowed to visit North Korea to witness inspections, they will only be allowed to witness the sealing of the removed nuclear fuel under the pretext of North Korea being in a unique situation in which it has suspended the withdrawal from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. [end recording]

Daily Views DPRK Proposal for U.S. Peace Pact

SK2305045294 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 23 May 94 p 3

[Editorial: "'Peace Agreement' Should Not Be Concluded Only Between the United States and North Korea"]

[Text] In a special briefing concerning North Korea's replacement of its nuclear fuel rods, Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state, suggested that discussions will be held for a third round of U.S.-North Korea high-level talks once inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] are completed smoothly.

It is highly likely that when the third round of high-level talks are held, North Korea will propose more concrete steps in improving military, economic, and political relations with the United States which it has consistently called for in the past. On the other hand, the United States will demand inspections of both declared and undeclared nuclear facilities in North Korea until the international community is satisfied with their transparency.

What we must pay special attention to among the anticipated agenda items at the third round of U.S.-North Korea talks, is the issue North Korea will raise pertaining to concluding a peace agreement on the pretext of improving military relations with the United States.

Last month, North Korea claimed that this issue should be dealt with from the viewpoint of overall disarmament on the Korean peninsula because its undeclared nuclear sites are military facilities. Thus, North Korea stressed that a peace agreement should be concluded with the United States.

The proposal for concluding a peace agreement with the United States raised by North Korea in an attempt to counter special inspection of its undeclared nuclear facilities has been repeatedly put forward since the 1970's. The purpose of this proposal is to replace the armistice system on the Korean peninsula by concluding a peace agreement with the United States and not the ROK. This proposal is also based on the logic that North Korea will push for establishing the peace system on the Korean peninsula through disarmament between the North and the South and through withdrawal of U.S. Forces from South Korea on the basis of a North-South nonaggression declaration and the peace agreement with the United States.

This allegation of North Korea is misleading [hoguda]. The real parties concerned with consolidating peace on the Korean peninsula are none other than the North and the South. Only when hostile relations between the North and the South are turned into relations of coexistence guaranteeing the North-South nonaggression declaration for building legal trust [pobchok silloe kuchuk], when political and military trust is built, and disarmament between the North and the South realized, can a practical peace system be established on the Korean peninsula and can discussion of a peace agreement between the North and the South be held. However, the North Korean allegation ignores this clear, precise reality.

Therefore, in the wake of a third round of U.S.-North Korea high- level talks, our government, should closely cooperate and call upon the United States to clearly convey its position to North Korea that the peace agreement on the Korean peninsula should be discussed with the ROK, the party concerned, instead of the United States. At the same time, the United States should emphasize the fact that a peace agreement with the United States designed to force the U.S. Forces to withdraw from South Korea, will not result in gaining genuine peace on the Korean peninsula. Peace will only be gained when North Korea sincerely implements the building of genuine, political, legal, and military trust by amending its existing policies toward the South, and only when North Korea strives to establish peace on the Korean peninsula through a peace agreement between North and South Korea.

We would like to urge the government to firmly maintain the position that the peace agreement issue is different from the issue of exchanging special envoys and that the

ROK people will never tolerate a situation in which the issue of peace on the Korean peninsula is discussed without participation of the ROK. While maintaining this position, our government should assume an even more positive attitude toward the ROK-U.S. mutual cooperative system.

DLP Official To Ask PRC To Mediate Nuclear Issue

SK2105080594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 21 (YONHAP)—The secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Mun Chung-su will visit China from May 24-29 at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party.

Mun is to meet with senior leaders of the Chinese Communist Party, including Vice Chairman of Political Consultative Conference Wu Xueqian, head of International Liaison Department Li Shuzheng and deputy head of International Liaison Department Zhu Shanqing.

Mun and the Chinese leaders will discuss expanding cooperation between DLP and the Chinese Communist Party.

Mun will explain to the Chinese leaders that the peaceful solution of the North Korea's nuclear problem is helpful to the continual development of ties between Seoul and Beijing and will ask for China's active mediation on the matter.

Mun is also trying to meet with President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng through diplomatic channels and if Mun has a chance to meet with Jiang, Mun is likely to deliver President Kim Yong-sam's message, informed sources said.

Meanwhile, the Executive Chairman of DLP Kim Chong-pil is scheduled to visit China in November.

Paper Speculates on Resolution of DPRK Issue

SK2205070994 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 22 May 94 p 3

[Article by reporter Choe Won-ki: "Forecast of Third Round of U.S.-North Korea Talks—U.S. Will Likely Accept All North Korean Demands If North Korean Nuclear Transparency Is Insured 100 Percent"]

[Text] The North Korean nuclear train, which was dashing toward the edge of a cliff, is turning around in the direction of a safety zone with 21 May as the climax.

Since U.S. President Clinton stated that day that "North Korea's replacing of fuel rods is merely a technical violation," the possibility of a third round of North Korea-U.S. talks, which has been suspended since July last year, being held sooner or later, has increased. Thus, it is highly likely that according to this policy of Washington's, the North Korean nuclear problem henceforth will again go through a script for the "dissolution of discord" that forecasts negotiations between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] based on a third round of North Korea-U.S. talks, and improvement in North-South relations.

Besides, in the event that the North Korean nuclear problem is resolved smoothly, relations between North Korea and the United States will even develop into such a level as to establish a liaison office in Washington and Pyongyang respectively during the later half of this year. Experts who have been watching the recent nuclear issue observed that the North Korean nuclear problem will proceed on the following three stages in accordance with a simultaneous or separate timetable.

The event to take place in the first stage is negotiation between North Korea and IAEA.

The IAEA will soon begin negotiations with Pyongyang over the issue of replacement, storage, and measurement of fuel rods.

Second is the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks.

In the event that additional inspection of the radiochemical experimental power station is carried out as a separate work from replacing fuel rods and sample-taking, the United States will view that the conditions for a third round of talks have been met. Taking into account the fact that additional inspection is being carried out satisfactorily, the possibility of North Korea-U.S. talks being held in early June is very great.

It is also likely that the third round of North Korea-U.S. talks will be held in Geneva between Kang Sok-chu, North Korean first vice foreign minister, and Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state. The United States and North Korea have already worked out detailed political and economic issues to be discussed and exchanged with each other. North Korea has established a long-range goal of establishing diplomatic relations with the United States by taking advantage of recent developments of the situation. Under this long-range goal, North Korea will put forward various short-range demands for the improvement in mutual relations, including suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise; recognition of the North Korean political system; improvement in North Korea-U.S. relations; a promise not to launch a preemptive attack on North Korea; elimination of North Korea from the list of terrorist states, and support for a light-water reactor.

There is a possibility that North Korea will demand that these pledges be specified in a document, and will propose holding a Kim Il-song-Clinton summit. On other other hand, the United States will likely demand a guarantee for special inspections by the IAEA; prohibition of nuclear reprocessing; the resumption of North-South dialogue for the joint denuclearization declaration; and a complete return of North Korea to Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

It appears that the United States has finalized its position in conformity with the agreement with the ROK that there will be no serious problems in accepting North Korean demands if North Korea's nuclear transparency is insured 100 percent.

This signifies that if North Korea resolves its nuclear problem, the United States will implement an epoch-making policy on North Korea, including a long-range plan to recognize North Korea diplomatically.

This position has been expressed on many occasions by President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Clinton.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu also believes that in a long-range view, improvement in North Korea-U.S. relations will be helpful for bringing North Korea out to the international community.

The third stage is North-South relations. Experts observe that if the third round of North Korea-U.S. talks proceed smoothly, positive impact will be exerted on North-South relations which have been in deadlock for a long time.

In other words, in the event that the third round of North Korea- U.S. talks proceed satisfactorily, the government, which has been maintaining the "nuclear solution-first and economic cooperation-next policy" for the past two years, will highly likely take an appeasement gesture toward North Korea according to the changes in the situation, including granting permission to ROK businessmen to visit North Korea during the later half of the year. How much weight and what degree of importance North Korea will attach to dialogue with South Korea and to improving its relations with South Korea in the course of carrying out dialogue with the United States will decide on the speed of improving North Korea-U.S. relations.

This is because both the ROK and the United States maintain the position that the United States' improving its relations with North Korea should be carried out in parallel with improvement of North-South relations.

Professor Yi Pom-chun (Songsin Womens University) said: We must clearly express our strong will to North Korea and the United States that without implementation of ordinary and special inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities and mutual inspections between North and South of Korea in a bid to check North Korea's nuclear weapons development, the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States should not be realized, nor should the United States' economic cooperation with North Korea be pushed for.

Both the ROK and the United States are attempting to make an appeasement approach to North Korea, stating "Let us solve the problem through dialogue," despite North Korea's intentional foul play, such as the unilateral act of replacing nuclear fuel rods. However, there certainly is a possibility that a solution to the North Korean nuclear issue may get fouled up into a more difficult status according to the North Korean attitude henceforth.

U.S. To Apply Super 301 Over Sausage Dispute

SK2105040894 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 21 May 94 p 1

[By reporter An Chae-sung: "Friction Over Sausages—U.S. Plans To Notify the ROK of Super 301 Application"]

[Text] It has been learned that with a view to resolving the problem on U.S.-made sausages, whose customs clearance have been withheld by our government for reasons of safety, the U.S. Government is working out hardline measures, including the application of Super 301. It was also noted that the U.S. government, not remaining in its measures to merely solve the sausage issue, will raise an issue with our government's safety regulations on foodstuffs and quarantine system. This is reportedly aimed at satisfactorily exporting U.S. agricultural products and foodstuffs to the ROK.

This fact was confirmed by on 20 May a U.S. Government document obtained by HANGYORE SINMUN. This document is a summary of the contents discussed during a conference held on 26 April by officials from the relevant U.S. Government offices and agencies in a bid to resolve the sausage problem. This conference was arranged by (Peter Collins), deputy representative for Asian-Pacific affairs in the Office of U.S. Trade Representative, and attended by relevant officials from the budget management bureau of the U.S. Department of State and Department of Agriculture.

According to this document, the participants in the conference put forward the opinion that because there was no progress in negotiations with the ROK Government for a solution to the sausage problem, the U.S. Government should notify the ROK Government of its plan to apply Super 301.

In particular, contrary to the opinion put forward by other participants who maintained that the ROK Government should be notified of the application of Super 301 this Autumn after watching the trend of negotiations, the relevant officials from the U.S. Trade Representative and U.S. Department of Agriculture expressed the hardline position that Super 301, their "best card," must be mobilized immediately.

Thus, this document confirms that U.S. Government officials are using Super 301 as a means for threatening [wihyop sudan] the ROK.

The document also revealed that a participant in the conference said that "the ROK is indeed afraid of Super 301. Therefore, Super 301 is our very weapon."

The document showed that the U.S. Government is handling the sausage problem not only as an issue related to sausage itself, but also as an overall issue concerning the export of U.S. agricultural products and foodstuffs to the ROK.

Fisheries Office To Allow Imports of Codfish

SK2005142094 Seoul YONHAP in English 1133 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has changed a policy and now decided to allow the imports of codfish heads as a food, Yi Ui-su, administrator of the Fisheries Administration said on Friday. Yi told reporters that there no longer is any ground to ban the imports of codfish heads.

Noting that the United States has consistently been asking for their imports, the administrator said, "We have decided to permit codfish head imports especially because the United States threatens to take a trade retaliation based on Super Article 301."

Yi said that early last March three food hygienic experts were sent to the United States to inspect codfish head processing. "We have determined there is no problem so far as hygienic matters are concerned," he said.

Imports of codfish heads, he said, could be made beginning some time in the first half of next year at the earliest because of the time needed in fixing domestic regulations in both countries to facilitate the exports and imports of the item.

Thirteen tons and 1,013 tons of American codfish heads were imported in 1983 and 1984 before their introduction was halted altogether in the face of public uproars that the imports of discarded American codfish heads as a food were prone to hurt people's health and national prestige.

North's Demand for Repatriation of Loggers Refuted

SK2105075094 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0700 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The government released a statement today, through a National Unification Board spokesman, pertaining to the demand made by North Korea for the repatriation of the loggers who defected. The government statement stressed that their defection was done legally from the humanitarian standpoint, and urged North Korea to immediately stop carrying out acts that heighten tension on the Korean peninsula by raising a row on this defection.

The government pointed out that the loggers, who defected recently, came to our side voluntarily, seeking their freedom and welfare. However, North Korea claimed that they had been abducted and so forth. This is totally groundless. Thus, the government called on North Korea to stop committing irresponsible acts.

Earlier today, North Korea sent a telephone message in the name of Yi Song-tok, head of the North Korean side's office of the North- South Liaison Office, claiming that the ROK forcibly abducted and kidnapped the loggers. North Korea urged the South to unconditionally repatriate them to North Korea.

Threatening that if the ROK fails to repatriate the loggers, grave consequences would be brought about to the overall North-South relations, North Korea claimed that the ROK would be held responsible for all consequences arising therefrom.

Kim Chong-il Said To Suffer From Heart Disease

SK2305004394 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 23 May 94 p 2

[By correspondent Yu Tong-hui from Beijing]

[Text] A Western source in Beijing well versed in North Korean affairs said on 22 May: Kim Chong-il, North Korea's successor, has been completely excluded from the decisionmaking process in North Korea because he has been suffering from serious illnesses like heart disease, ever since his excessive pursuit of a hard-line policy toward China last year, which drove North Korea into a wall, and which caused him to eventually lose Kim Il-song's trust.

This source added: As a result, the inner circle of the North Korean leadership has been seriously discussing the issue of having Kim Pyong-il, Kim Chong-il's half brother, become the successor.

This source also said: During last December's party and government reshuffle, many of Kim Chong-il's confidants were relieved from their posts, and Kim Yong-chu, Kim Il-song's younger brother, who had disappeared from the North Korean power circle in the mid-seventies, reappeared. Rumors abounded at that time that something had happened to Kim Chong-il. However, the rumors abated in early March, when Kim Chong-il met with a General Association of Korean Residents in Japan delegation. However, the Kim Chong-il who appeared at that time may have been a "stand-in" [taeyok].

This source went on to say: North Korea sent Kim Pyong-il to Finland as ambassador last December to soothe Kim Chong-il's opposition to the expulsion of his confidants from the leadership but called him in later. Kim Pyong-il again visited Pyongyang recently. This was possible because Kim Chong-il's power has waned significantly in a few months.

DPRK Allows South's Ships To Use Najin Port

SK2305022794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0129 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—Pyongyang prefers Najin in the northeastern special economic zone to nearby Chongjin City for the proposed direct inter-Korean shipping route to minimize North Koreans' exposure to southerners, according to the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA).

"Despite the fact that several ships leased by South Korean shipping companies have entered Chongjin port, the North Koreans insist that South Korean ships use Najin port," KMPA officials said Monday. "We think that's a step to prevent the shock of opening from spreading to other places by separating the special economic area from other regions."

Chongjin has an advantage over Najin in terms of railroad facilities but suffers a freight vehicle shortage, while Najin offers better land transportation with good road conditions, the officials quoted ethnic Koreans living in China as saying.

Pyongyang seems to have designated Najin as the South-North direct trading center in the East Sea, the officials said.

Negotiations on the direct shipping route are stalled, however, because the North wants the Seoul government not to interfere in direct investment by South Korean businesses in the development of unloading and transportation facilities at Najin port, according to the officials.

North Opens Najin-Sonbong Special Zone Early

SK2105090494 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 May 94 p 1

[By reporter Kim Chung-kun from Beijing]

[Text] North Korea has begun to open the Najin-Sonbong special zone ahead of schedule. The opening was initially planned for after the nuclear problem was solved. However, business firms from seven Western countries, including England, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong, not to mention China, have concluded investment contracts with North Korea. This was confirmed on 20 May.

North Korea expressly stipulated in the relevant laws and regulations concerning the opening of the special zone that it would guarantee the free passage of ROK nationals and ROK cargo.

Besides, North Korea asked China to include 10 representatives, from different spheres of ROK business firms that advanced into China, in a 50-member Chinese economic delegation that will visit North Korea late this month. Thus, North Korea was positive in inducing investment of ROK capital and technology.

According to this, the ROK Embassy in China on 20 May advised each ROK firm that advanced into China to actively prepare for their advance into North Korea by taking advantage of business collaboration with Chinese enterprises.

Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the North Korean External Economy Commission in charge of the external opening policy, visited China last month. He conveyed the master plan on the opening of Najin- Sonbong zone to the Chinese Government, and asked for China's cooperation. Following this, representatives of the Najin-Sonbong zone exchanged a protocol with representatives of Hunchun City, Jilin Province, China, on 6 April on concrete agreements between the two sides on the opening of the zone.

According to the protocol of agreement obtained by TONG-A ILBO, North Korea and Chinese authorities agreed to jointly develop the Najin-Sonbong special zone and the Hunchun-(Jiaohe) District in China, which is adjacent to Najin-Sonbong zone, into visa-free entry and tariff-free international free trade zones, and to conduct joint-ventures in essential facilities, including ports and roads. The two sides also agreed that the Chinese capital invested in the zones will be compensated with the interest earned by the operation of the zones and with marine products.

This protocol noted an additional article on the passage of ROK nationals and ROK cargoes into the Najin-Sonbong zone, stating that "South Korea is included." According to a North Korean source in Beijing, after the exchange of the protocol, the North Korean side dispatched to China Sok Hui-hyon, director of a department in charge of external opening, and conveyed a concrete plan stating that "in the event that ROK personnel from a China-ROK joint-venture firm wants to visit the zone, an invitation will be extended to him if a request is forwarded 15 days prior to his visit so that he can travel freely to the zone."

The North Korean side has already discriminated between the residents who are permitted to live permanently in the 746.2 square km special zone from those who will be sent to other places. North Korea moved from Pyongyang 600 new households of residents with a strong party spirit into this zone. Meanwhile, North Korea informed the Chinese side that it will allow the establishment of field liaison offices from seven countries, including China, in the Najin- Sonbong zone, and will open on a full scale the passage of foreigners and foreign cargoes in Najin and Sonbong ports starting in June, when construction of buildings in the wharfside is completed.

* Scenarios for Unification, DPRK Reform

* DPRK Seeks U.S. Normalization

942C0111A Seoul IRYO SINMUN in Korean 3 Apr 94 p 1

[By reporter Chong Son-kyo]

[Text] "These days Pyongyang residents of the middle school age or older each carry an empty explosives satchel strapped around their waist, in a show of their horrifying determination to throw their bodies with the satchels filled with shells when there is a call from the leader. In addition, copies of a war map of South Korea with marked targets of initial attack in the event of war have been distributed." So said a Chinese source who recently visited North Korea.

Meanwhile, a Japanese source said, "These days a nightly blackout from 2100 hours is in force in Pyongyang, even in hotels for foreigners, turning the city into pitch darkness."

A Korean paper in the United States carries a similar report: "The foremost subject among taxi passengers in Seoul is, 'What would happen if war breaks out?' There is a growing tendency among Korean residents in the United States to restrain their trips to the homeland. That is why an increasing number of them telephone their relatives in Korea more frequently."

Those are examples of the reports pouring in about the war atmosphere in the North and South since North Korea issued a threat to "turn South Korea into a sea of blood." The situation as described by these reports is really dreadful. However, interestingly enough, contrary to this reported atmosphere, arguments that "the war atmosphere has been concocted by tacit agreement between North Korea and the United States to pursue their own interests" have mushroomed with some credibility. According to this theory, the North Korean statement that it will "not hesitate to go to war" is hollow, and the U.S. "strategy of punishment" is closely linked to U.S. interests.

In a word, according to this theory, war cannot break out now.

The formula tacitly agreed to by North Korea and the United States is a win-and-win strategy. By this formula, both sides will win. To be more specific, by creating tension on the Korean Peninsula the United States seeks to sell Patriot missiles and other follow-up weapons, and North Korea seeks to settle the issue of establishing diplomatic relations with the United States.

North Korea has obstructed nuclear inspections, aborted the proposed exchange of special envoys between North and South, and used "the sea of blood" threat as a trump card at the formal negotiating table—all this was part of a prearranged strategy aimed at establishing diplomatic relations with the United States and even extracting U.S. economic aid.

If North Korea really wanted war, it would not have openly stated that it would "not hesitate to go to war." But it is a fact that Kim Chong- il, who commands nuclear diplomacy at the top, gained something from that threat. First, he has succeeded in controlling the military by placing North Korea on a quasi war-footing, thereby consolidating his power. Next, he has given the North Korean people the impression that "Kim Chong-il's outstanding judgment of the situation is producing diplomatic benefits." In addition, by causing uneasiness among the South Korean people, Kim Chong-il has gained the upper hand in diplomatic-psychological warfare.

Said a Korean journalist in the United States atuned to the North Korean situation: "North-South relations will get worse in late April and early May, but I think that North-South dialogue will be resumed in August or thereabouts as North Korea is expected to show an unexpected foreign policy trump card and make a sudden policy about-face."

That is the speculation about the possibility of "establishing diplomatic relations and exchanging ambassadors between North Korea and the United States in August." Various indications supporting this speculation are actually surfacing. Some of the Korean residents in the United States who recently visited North Korea are establishing a "prearranged channel of contact" with Kim Chong-il. A Korean newspaper in the United States has come out with a "slogan in praise of Kim Chong-il" on the basis of the judgment that "North Korea and the United States will soon establish diplomatic relations in one way or another."

As if substantiating speculation about the early establishment of diplomatic relations, a high-ranking U.S. official on 26 March hinted at the possibility of resuming talks between the United States and North Korea. At a press conference held in the United States, the senior U.S. official who took part in the first and second rounds of U.S.-North Korea talks made this point: "I cannot specify the date, but the United States will soon resume talks with North Korea. U.N. sanctions against North Korea are not a policy goal of the United States at all. North Korea should accept the win-and-win formula. North Korea has obstructed inspections in order to squeeze more out of the bargain. But it was a failure."

The creation of mutually beneficial tension by the United States and North Korea has something to do with Clinton's and Kim Chong-il's current position. Currently, Clinton is beset by Whitewater, which is no less troublesome than Nixon's Watergate. Moreover, the only way to rescue the Patriot missile maker from the verge of bankruptcy is to sell the missiles in the world market. Some point out that the party pressuring the manufacturer and Clinton is the Kennedy family, which has close ties with Clinton.

On the other hand, Kim Chong-il wants to be in the international limelight as "an able diplomat" by wresting diplomatic recognition from the United States and arrogate the credit to himself. North Korea has quietly moved to turn over the remains of American soldiers to the U.S. side since last year. In an unexpected show of generosity toward the United States in humanitarian matters, North Korea has already returned a considerable number of bodies.

Since the latter half of 1993, North Korea has exerted efforts to open up to the outside world and promote economic cooperation. It is worthy of note that North

Korea recently revised the joint venture law for the first time in 10 years and that a move is afoot to enact a law related to foreign investment.

* 'Peace Plan' on DPRK Crisis

942C0111B Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean No 1298, 7 Apr 94 pp 18-20

[By reporter U Chong-chang]

[Excerpts] There is a plan code-named "Peace Plan." It has been worked out the ministries dealing with unification. A similar plan prepared by the Ministry of National Defense is called "00 Plan."

The "Peace Plan" spells out the government measures to cope with a drastic political change or an emergency situation in North Korea. It provides a scenario covering all possible contingencies, such as the sudden death of Kim Il-song, the outbreak of war, a military coup, food riots, mass exodus of North Koreans, a change in the system patterned after the Chinese style policy of opening up to the outside world. [passage omitted]

Because the plan was amended and supplemented for nearly 30 years, its volume is staggering. An official said, "It takes 2 days to skim through it." [passage omitted]

The "measures to cope with radical change in North Korea" prepared by all the ministries concerned pass as "Peace Plans." But the one prepared by the Defense Ministry carries a different name. Those prepared by the Defense Ministry are divided into two. The first one, "the War Plan," already existed. After the civilian government was installed, the Defense Ministry worked out the second. The Defense Ministry plan combining these two measures is code-named "00 Plan."

The scenario in the "Peace Plan" begins with changes in North Korea. There are three types of contingencies in North Korea foreseen by our government. They are: "the provocation of war," "the fall from within," and "a voluntary reform of the regime."

Of these contingencies, the possibility of North Korea invading the South is the one our government constantly keeps in mind. North Korea is constantly sending signals through various channels indicating that it will not hesitate to go to war. However, in our government's view, "that possibility is very slim."

In terms of combat capability, including troop strength, the number of combat divisions, equipment, and training, North Korea is slightly ahead of South Korea. In terms of "combat strength index" used to measure fighting capability in war (combat strength equivalent to one armored division is rated as one ED), North Korea leads South Korea by a slight margin.

However, according to military experts, under these circumstances it would be difficult for any commander with the power of reasonable judgment to think of launching an all-out war. Still, the possibility exists, although a slight one, just in case a special situation of political and economic confusion should develop in the South, undermining our government's ability to command war efforts, or in case North Korea should fall into self- abandonment.

Experts on unification share a similar view. According to them, several scenarios anticipating war have this common feature: "After succeeding to power, Kim Chong- il touches off war in an attempt to find a way out of internal difficulties, but he is defeated." According to these scenarios, with just one day for us to detect the telltale signs of a surprise attack, North Korean troops advance 60 to 70 kilometers in three weeks to occupy Seoul, but they are forced to retreat in the face of ROK and American counterattacks. Most experts say that as time goes by, the possibility of war will diminish.

Our intelligence authorities think that Kim Chong-il is not yet in complete control of the North Korean military. Proof of it is his constant expression of thanks to the troops in frontier areas. Recently, Kim appointed his trusted lieutenants as aides-de- camp to division commanders in the frontier areas north of Pyongyang, such as Wonsan, Chongjin, Kanggye, and Sinuiju. Reportedly, these aides, each carrying a pistol and a lunch box called "kwakbap" on the waist, accompany their division commanders for 24 hours. The Chinese government has already received information that North Korean division commanders are strongly complaining about their "kwakbap" aides-de-camp. It is our government's assessment that the possibility of war is slim at this time when Kim Chong-il is not in full control of the military and when it is difficult to look forward to Chinese and Russian support.

The second contingency, namely, a North Korean internal collapse, is subdivided into "invasion of the North by the South," "the collapse of the regime under a popular uprising," and "an anti-Kim Il-song coup." But there is no possibility whatsoever of the South invading the North.

Experts are generally negative about the possibility of "the collapse of the regime under a popular uprising." They give these reasons: North Korea is an almost completely closed society; the people have been brainwashed through a man-remaking campaign; and the regime has maintained strict social controls. Said Ko Yong-han, former North Korean Foreign Ministry official who defected to the South: "As long as the regime can supply only rice and red pepper to people, it will be able to hold on to power for the next several decades." Thus he ruled out a popular uprising. Our government is also skeptical about it.

However, recently the situation has changed rapidly. The number escaping into Russia or China is sharply increasing. Some point out that this phenomenon resembles what happened at the beginning of the fall of the

East European bloc. Concerned ROK officials even maintain that "recent escapees should be regarded as refugees, not defectors."

Some observers predict that "if North Korea fails to tide over the spring famine season, riots may break out because of the food shortage." It is nothing new that North Korea is distributing for human consumption the corn or soybeans it imported from China as animal feed. Our government recently confirmed this through field reports. North Korean officials who contact our officials or businessmen abroad openly request food aid from the South. Judging from all this, there is quite strong speculation that the food shortage has reached its worst; it may touch off a popular riot. That is why quite a few experts predict the possibility of the regime's collapse under a riot.

The third possibility, an "anti-Kim Il-song coup," is thought to be high. Our government speculates that a palace coup by loyal followers, is a greater possibility than a military coup. In this connection, it is worthy of note that recently, there are some ominous signs of change in the situation surrounding Kim Chong-il. [passage omitted]

The scenario of the palace coup is roughly as follows: "The moment Kim Chong-il takes power, Kim Il-song's younger brother Kim Yong-chu, Kim Chong-il's stepbrother Kim Pyong-il, and Kim Pyong-il's mother Kim Song-ae stage a coup with military support and build a collective leadership hand in hand with Young Turks in the party and economic bureaucrats."

This possibility is high, but the question is whether or not the new regime created would be friendly to us. Speculation by experts on unification is that "even if a coup is successful, they won't present the new North Korean regime to the ROK as a gift." However, our government has drawn up a plan to help North Korea should the new forces that replaced Kim Il-song ask for an economic aid.

What worries our government most about a palace coup is a civil war in North Korea in case the coup should fail, and the resulting confusion under the reign of anarchy. It is estimated that in that event millions of North Koreans would escape to flee the civil war. Internal government data estimate the number of North Korean refugees at 5 million. It is expected that refugees would exit through these areas: the armistice line, the east and west coastlines, and the Chinese and Russian borders. According to foreign press dispatches, the Japanese government has drawn up a plan to block North Korean refugees on the high seas before they can enter Japan by boat.

If refugees cross the armistice line, how would our government handle them? Would it take them in? If North Korean troops massacre fleeing North Koreans, would our government sit back and do nothing? These are the agonizing questions.

In this regard, the government has drawn up special measures to cope with specific types of contingencies. These are the core of the "Peace Plan." The plan is said to have been drawn up on the basis of humanitarianism. This is to say it calls for the admittance of refugees if there are refugees.

The third contingency, "voluntary reform," has nothing to do with convulsive changes in North Korea. But voluntary reform is the common wish shared by our government and experts on unification because it is the best alternative that can minimize sacrifices attendant to the process of unification. Its shortcoming, however, is that it will take a long time to reach the goal of unification. This point is touched on in the "Peace Plan."

Currently, the North Korean economy is believed to be on the verge of ruin. North Korea will have to change course by necessity, not by Kim Il-song's choice. The anticipated change of the system will be a Chinese-style reform: establishing special economic zones [SEZ's] in isolated areas and reviving the economy, with pollution from capitalism shut out. If North Korea shifts to this course, the timing for the transition would be Kim Il-song's birthday (15 April) or shortly before.

Experts speculate that North Korea has completed preparations for reform. But it is trying hard to exact economic assistance from the United States and Japan beforehand. According to experts, it is out of this calculation that North Korea is engaged in protracted negotiations with the Clinton Administration over the head of the ROK Government.

North Korea is said to have organized a special team to coddle the United States. The government speculates that the team includes Hwang Chang-yop, who visited the SEZ's in China this past January, and Kim Yong-sun, former secretary in charge of South Korean affairs. According to a government official concerned, of the two Hwang is the front man and Kim has real power. The speculation that there will be a major change in North Korea has been sparked by reports about this team.

On the possibility of war, a senior official familiar with the details of the "Peace Plan" said: "It is a difficult question to which nobody has a ready answer, but in my personal opinion, the chances are minimal." He argued: "The stronger our stand not to hesitate to go to war, the slimmer the chances of the North invading the South." He speculated: "In the future the North-South relationship will gradually change as North Korea reforms on its own."

Yeltsin Apologizes for Meeting Cancellation

SK2105035194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0323 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 21 (YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a message to President Kim Yong-sam on Saturday to express his regret over the indefinite postponement of the first Korea-Russia joint economic committee meeting.

The meeting was put off after Russia abruptly cancelled the visit to Seoul by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin who was to represent Russia at the meeting slated for May 20-21.

In the message, Yeltsin said he was very sorry for the cancellation of Shokhin's visit to Seoul due to Russia's domestic situation.

Russian Ambssador to Korea Georgiy Kunadze called on Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong to hand him the message for delivery to President Kim.

Asking for President Kim's understanding of the "unexpected sitaution" that kept the Russian delegation from visiting Seoul, Yeltsin said he was suggesting that the meeting be held in Moscow at an appropriate time before President Kim's planned visit to Moscow.

The Russian president also said in the message his country was looking forward to President Kim's visit to Moscow, which he said would be very useful to bilateral relations in many aspects.

Foreign Ministry Denies Report on Russian Subs

SK2305121294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1132 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry on Monday denied as "not factual" the recent claim by a British military expert that the discarded submarines bought by North Korea may be used for military purposes.

An article written by a British international naval forces expert and that appeared in the recently published "Jane's Warships, '94- '95," alleged that North Korea has purchased 40 submarines from Russia and that there is the danger of the submarines being used for military purposes in North Korea.

"We have asked Russia about the claim through our consulate general in Vladivostok and Russian authorities said there is no such danger at all," a ministry official said.

Russia, he said, explained they had sold 12 discarded submarines, instead of 40 as claimed by Jane's, to North Korea, and only one of them has actually been delivered to Pyongyang.

Even this one submarine has no way but to be used as scrap because the Russian military had removed from the submarine all those parts that could be used militarily, the official said.

Fishing Boat Captured by PRC Still Being Held

SK2305121194 Seoul YONHAP in English 1136 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Inchon, May 23 (YONHAP)—Two South Korean fishing boats were seized by Chinese patrol boats with their fishermen aboard last month for violating the Chinese territorial waters.

One of the two has been set free on the condition of arranging the payment of a fine. A source at the Inchon Maritime Police said on Monday Tongwon-ho No. 61 and Tongwon-ho No. 62, both dragnet fishing boats based in Inchon, were seized by the Chinese around 3 PM April 16 while they were catching fish beyond the Korea-China fishery self-restraint line.

The Chinese, while keeping Tongwon-ho. No. 62 as hostage, released Tongwon-ho No. 61 on the following day, April 17, with the order to arrange the payment of 80,000 U.S. dollars in a fine.

The owner of the freed ship refused to pay the fine and Tongwon-ho No. 62 is still held in captivity in China, the source said.

President Reshuffles Vice Ministerial Positions

SK2305014294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0104 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam Monday appointed Pak Kon-u, secretary-general of the 2002 World Cup Bidding Committee, as vice foreign minister in a reshuffle of seven vice ministerial posts.

Kim Yong-chin, commissioner of the Korean Customs Administration (KCA), was appointed vice finance minister and Yi Sok-chae, assistant economic planning minister for budget, became vice agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister.

Industrial Advancement Administrator Pak Un-so was named vice trade, industry and energy minister.

Yi Hang-kyun, assistant finance minister, replaced Kim Yong-chin as commissioner of the KCA, while Pak Sam-kyu, assistant minister for industry, took over for Pak Un-so.

Lawyer Cho Kyong-kun was appointed the first state vice minister for political affairs.

Chu Ton-sik, senior presidential press secretary, said, "President Kim carried out the vice-minister-level personnel changes in the seven ministries after considering the senior officials' specialties and ability to control their ministries."

Chu added that President Kim is scheduled to confer letters of appointment on the new vice ministers at 5:50 Monday afternoon [0850 GMT 23 May].

A presidential secretary said that the president has postponed changing the vice foreign minister to carry out the vice minister- level personnel changes simultaneously, although he decided on the change after the vice minister "created policy confusion in the Foreign Ministry." [sentence as received]

"The new adviser to the first state minister for political affairs was appointed on the recommendation of First State Minister So Chong-won," he said.

President Confers With Former Political Leaders

SK2005141094 Seoul YONHAP in English 1127 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam discussed ways to reinvigorate the nation's economy with six former prime ministers, deputy premiers and business leader.

Meeting them over luncheon, President Kim said he would execute "clean politics" where industries will be able to manage their businesses without bothering to read the faces of the government and politicians.

The six elders present at the Chongwadae [presidential offices] working luncheon were ex-Prime Ministers Sin Hyon-hwak, Yu Chang-sun and Yi Hyon-chae, ex-Deputy Premiers Kim Chun-sung and Yi Han-bin, and Chong Su-chang, former head of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The attendees called for resolute improvement of the economic structure with a view to enhancing the nation's international competitiveness, steady pursuit of deregulation, and preparation against the sudden collapse of North Korea.

"We should not sit idly by simply because the economy goes well. We must resolutely improve our economic structure through technology development and expanded investment," Sin Hyon-hwak said.

Former Prime Minister Nam Tok-u and ex-Deputy Premiers Sin Pyong-hyon and Cho Sun were also invited, but they failed to attend due to their overseas trips and other personal reasons.

* Kim Yong-sam-Media Honeymoon Said Over

942C0114B Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean 21 Apr 94 pp 14-15

[By reporter Mun Chong-u]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Actually, the relationship between the Kim Yong-sam Administration and the press has been very amicable thus far. The press occasionally voiced objection to appointments of certain Cabinet ministers or presidential secretaries, but has seldom criticized the government's mistakes head-on.

However, the government has been very high-handed toward the press. Around last year's Newspaper Day on 7 April President Kim Yong-sam and Information Minister O In-hwan urged newspaper companies to disclose properties owned by journalists as well as each paper's circulation, stressing the need for the press to join in the reform movement. When the slot machine scandal broke out last May, government sources floated the rumor that the government "plans to conduct a full-fledged investigation of those journalists who have close ties with the slot machine operators." In June, a CHUNGANG ILBO reporter was taken into custody in connection with his report concerning then Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae. In July, the Office of the Prime Minister issued a directive calling for each ministry to collect information on cases of erroneous press reports and take active countermeasures. The press put up with this kind of government "interference in its internal affairs" in the past. But recently, some "wrinkles" have begun to be noticed in the relationship between the press and the government. The press has launched a carpet-bombing of the government in connection with a series of outstanding issues, such as the diversion of operating funds of the Sangmudae project, the cases of premature electioneering, the issue of North Korea's nuclear facilities, and the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. In addition, the press has heaped rebukes on President Kim Yong-sam's close aides by using all kinds of figures of speech such as "scandalous," "ignominious," and "unsightly." [passage omitted]

The government and the ruling party have nervously reacted to these rebukes. During his press conference on 31 March DLP Secretary General Mun Chong-su complained, "The only sectors that have not been reformed yet are the press and the religious community." Said General Secretary Mun: "Inchon Mayor Choe Ki-son and South Chungchong Provincial Governor Pak Tae-kwon are trying their best in their own ways, but the press seems to be mounting a political offensive against them. The press should show its inclination to reform by receiving normal tax inspections, for one thing."

In his congratulatory address to the 7 April Newspaper Day ceremony at which prizes were awarded to outstanding weekly papers, Vice Information Minister Yi Kyong-chae said: "Recently, press abuses have been the talk of the town. The press is dishonest in some respects, particularly in its operations as well as in reportage. It is self-contradictory for the press to call for justice while being corrupt itself." As concrete proof of its dishonesty, the vice minister cited these instances: refusal to disclose circulation; high-pressure advertising sales, tax evasion, and search for assets-based profits associated with news coverage.

During the 1 April meeting with a group of newspaper chief executives invited to the Blue House, President Kim Yong-sam briefed them on the results of his visit to Japan and China. Reportedly, the president took that opportunity to express his strong criticism of the press.

It is natural for the press to expose and criticize mistakes made by the government. The question, however, is whether the motives for criticism are pure or not. Some recent measures taken by the government against the press are indicative of the heightening tension between the government and the press.

The National Tax Administration on 15 March undertook a tax investigation of KYONGHYANG SINMUN, CHUNGANG ILBO, SEOUL SINMUN, HANGUK ILBO, and the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS). The National Tax Administration plans to conduct tax investigations of these four daily newspapers and the KBS for 40 days by dispatching eight tax auditors to each of these companies. This is the first tax investigation of national-level news media in 15 years. According to reports, the auditors will conduct an extensive tax audit on 120 categories, during which they will not receive even a single free meal from the newspaper companies being audited. The auditors made comments such as: "We did not know that newspaper companies have been managed like a hole-in- the-wall store"; or "Unexpectedly, there are so many questionable practices." Newspaper companies seem to find themselves in a very embarrassing position.

The investigations are scheduled to be finished by August. The press is extremely nervous about whether or not the National Tax Administration will make public the results. If they do, the press, which has remained a potential object of reform, is bound to experience a major impact. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, on 14 March the Board of Audit and Inspection uncovered the expedient assistance given to reporters in foreign travel by some local education offices and ordered corrective measures. Thus the board called a halt to the practice of government agencies providing assistance to reporters in their trips. Naturally, newspaper companies are unhappy about all these measures.

All these examples indicate that the government might have some ulterior motive. So far the press has been on the defensive over the media policy pursued by the Administration. The press remained silent in a show of displeasure at the demand for disclosing journalists' properties. However, it partially accepted the requests for disclosing the circulation figures and taking holidays off. The press has tried hard in its own way to show its "posture of being a participant in the reform drive." [passage omitted]

No one is more seriously aware than the authorities that there is something ominous in the counteroffensive of the press against the government. By an odd coincidence, DLP Secretary General Mun and Vice Information Minister Yi simultaneously made their remarks about conducting investigations and stopping tax evasion. They made these remarks because they knew by intuition why the press was mounting a counteroffensive against the government.

LDP Secretary General Mun said that the press and the religious community are the only sectors in our society that have not been reformed. With the turmoil of the Chogyejong Buddhist sector as momentum, the wind of reform is blowing over the religious community, and this leaves the press as the only institution yet to be reformed. If it is the judgment of the authorities that the press is mounting organized resistance against the government's determination to carry out reform, they should resolutely deal with it.

However, in reality, the government position is simply noncommittal. Concluding that a paucity of public information on government measures that caused a lot of unfavorable reports about the reform movement, the DLP has organized a public information committee of former journalists. This could be taken as a gesture of reconciliation toward the press. In fact, while conducting tax investigations of newspaper companies, the government has left some room for compromise. For one thing, CHOSON ILBO and TONG-A ILBO—both recorded the largest profit margins of all newspapers—are not included in the list of companies subject to the first phase of investigation.

In private, a certain newspaper executive candidly said: "We are afraid that we might become a scapegoat in the power struggle between newspaper owners and the government." In other words, as soon as the government and the press compromise after their sharp confrontation, only the companies' middle management who led the criticism of the government would undeservedly suffer the consequences.

In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that government measures so far against the press have been nothing but rhetoric. Neither the assets disclosure nor the circulation disclosure figures has been successful. Only the owners of some local newspaper companies and phoney journalists have been taken into custody. The present government's press policy is not much different from the past authoritarian regimes.

If the authorities are correct in their judgment that the press is putting up an organized resistance against it, one should conclude that the press sees right through government motives in trying to reform the press. In other words, the real purpose of the press policy is not reform it, but to tame it. This is to say that if the press stands its ground, the government is bound to yield to some degree. [passage omitted]

DLP Chairman Expects Social Unrest in June

SK2305095494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0814 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-pil, chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, warned Monday of social unrest next month, citing such issues as labor-management disputes, the outlawed teachers' union and the parliamentary probe into the Sangmudae scandal.

Speaking at a senior party members' meeting, Kim said, "social unrest is expected in June whether we want it or not.... labor unions and campuses are restless and the matter of the national teachers' union, which vows to rearm itself once it is organized, also is uneasy."

Moreover, the North Korean nuclear problem poses many unanswered questions, although a breakthrough seems to have been reached, Kim said.

The ruling party chairman demanded that the parliamentary investigation into the Sangmudae scandal be concluded in a firm and rational way with the party floor leader playing a central role, expressing concern that the probe will create an uproar.

Kim's remarks were considered a call for the party to address domestic political issues next month when President Kim Young-sam pays a state visit to Russia.

The comments, however, also reflected ruling party lawmakers' view of the current political uneasiness arising from radical campus activities and labor unions striving to form a new national alliance, experts say.

Navy Commissions Submarine at Launching Ceremony

SK2105041394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0348 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Okpo, May 21 (YONHAP)—The nation's fourth submarine, the Pakui, was placed in commission in a launching ceremony held Saturday at Okpo shipyard on Koje Island with Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae, Adm. Kim Hong-yol, chief of naval operations, and Chairman Kim U-chung of the Daewoo Business Group attending.

Mrs. Kim Song-ki, wife of Minister Kim [as received], cut the ribbon for the launching of the 1,200-ton vessel in accordance with naval tradition. The submarine, capable of a maximum speed of 22 knots per hour, is twice as fast as North Korea's W(Whisky)- and R (Romeo)-class craft.

The newly built submarine, the navy said, can conduct independent operations for two months with 30 crew and torpedoes and mines aboard. The other three submarines that have already been launched are the Changbogo, Yichon and Choemuson.

With the four submarines, the South Korean Navy will be able to effectively protect the country's sea routes through utilization of a three-dimensional strategy involving the air, sea and submarines.

The Navy said the submarine's launching will serve as momentum to secure South Korea's marine power in the 21st century while providing a counterbalance against North Korean underseas operations.

The new submarine was named after Pak Ui, a Choson Dynasty military officer who attacked Tsushima Island where Japanese pirates were rampant. The Daewoo shipyard began constructing the diesel- propelled vessel in June 1991 with design and technology offered by Germany's HDW.

Ministry Reports Trade Imbalance Continues

SK2005140394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0742 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade imbalance continued in April, recording a monthly deficit of 379 million U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy announced Friday.

The ministry said in a report that the nation's exports in April totaled 7,692 million U.S. dollars, a 14-percent increase over the same period last year, while imports reached 8,071 million dollars, up 17.8 percent compared with April 1993. The deficit represents an increase of 277 million dollars over the same month of 1993.

Accordingly, trade in the first four months ran a deficit of 3,010 million U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis with 27,597 million dollars in exports and 30,606 million dollars in imports. The trade deficit during the first four months is 1,122 million dollars higher than in 1993.

April's sharp increase in imports resulted from growing demand for imports amid business recovery and from more raw materials being shipped in. In particular, imports of crude oil and oil-related products, which had witnessed declining demand, are on the rise while such capital goods as machinery, chemicals and textiles are showing an increase of around 20 percent.

Meanwhile, exports showed a sound recovery with a double-digit increase in products from the heavy-chemical and primary industries together with an 8.7-percent rise in light-industry goods.

The strong Japanese yen prompted Korea's export to increase in electronics and electrical goods (21.2 percent) and chemical products and precision machines (12 to 13 percent).

Korean exports to developing countries surged 17 percent compared with 11.2 percent to advanced countries. In contrast, exports to China decreased 2.3 percent due to a decline in Chinese demand for Korean automobiles.

Burma

Minister Return from Egypt, Israel, Malaysia

BK2305112794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Lieutenant General Myint Aung, minister of agriculture, returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by air at 1235 this afternoon after visiting the Arab Republic of Egypt [ARE] from 5 to 11 May at the invitation of Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, minister for agriculture and fisheries and land reclamation of the ARE.

On the return journey from Egypt, the Myanmar delegation also visited Israel and Malaysia, holding discussions on the upgrading of trade and agriculture and observing the agricultural and trade activities.

While in Egypt, the agriculture minister, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador U Aung Gyi, called on Mr. Husni Mubarak, president of the ARE, at the Presidential Office on the morning of 10 May. During the meeting, the agriculture minister conveyed the congratulatory message of Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and commander in chief of the Defense Services, on the signing of an agreement following the successful historical Palestine-Israel peace talks held under the leadership of President Mubarak in Cairo, Egypt on 4 May. Frank and cordial discussions on mutual visits by high-ranking leaders from both countries, expertise and technology, improving trade, and strengthening Myanmar-Egypt friendship were also held at the meeting.

The Myanmar delegation led by the agriculture minister called on Dr. Wali, deputy prime minister, minister for agriculture and fisheries and land reclamation of the Government of ARE, at his office on the afternoon of 5 May. Frank and cordial discussions on mutually beneficial cooperation in the agricultural sector and the upgrading of bilateral economic cooperation were held at the meeting. Based on these discussions, Lt. Gen. Myint Aung, minister of agriculture and leader of the Myanmar delegation, and Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Wali signed a memorandum of understanding on systematic technological cooperation in the agricultural sector, which is a basic source of income for both Myanmar and Egypt, and economic cooperation in Cairo on 10 May. The memorandum of understanding stipulates the exchange of good quality crops and cereals, the exchange of experts and training, and the drawing up a detailed plan for upgrading the economy and trade. The Myanmar delegation made detailed observations on the cultivation of cotton, sugar cane, and date-palm, and the production of sugar in Egypt. The delegation also went to see the (Islam) Dam in the south of Egypt and observed the supply of water through irrigation, and the use of water from the Nile River for cultivation. The delegation also observed and held discussions on the cultivation and production of paddy rice, wheat, millet, corn, fruits, and vegetables, and the exchange of good quality seeds and crops. The delegation also observed the work to preserve the archaeological sites and tourism promotion in Egypt. The Myanmar delegation left Cairo, Egypt for Tel Aviv, Israel on 11 May and stayed there until 14 May.

In Israel, the Myanmar delegation observed the cultivation of fruits and the planting of trees for greenery in the tropical region, the effective use of irrigation water employing the latest techniques for cultivation, and modern and developed ways of cultivation and the production of fruits.

Lt. Gen. Myint Aung and members of the delegation, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador U Win Mra, called on Mr. Ya'aqov Tzur, minister of agriculture of Israel, on the afternoon of 12 May. The Israeli agriculture minister and responsible personnel accompanied the Myanmar delegation to the (Najit Halam Hatai) collective farm. At the farm, the Myanmar delegation observed the cultivation and production of crops and cereals and the production of water purification equipment. Frank and cordial discussions on mutual beneficial technological and economic cooperation were also held in Israel.

While in Israel, the Myanmar delegation met with (Mr. David Blach), chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, and executive members and described the political and administrative progress and transformation taking place in Myanmar, the economic development in Myanmar due to the practice of a market-oriented economy, and the investment situation in various business sectors, including the agricultural sector, in Myanmar. They also held discussions and coordinated on upgrading the bilateral economic and trade. The Myanmar delegation also suggested that Myanmar, due to its suitable land and conditions, is very much interested in going into mutually beneficial joint ventures with Israeli entrepreneurs who have modern technology, expertise, and investment. The Myanmar delegation also suggested that they send industrial and business missions to Myanmar. Concerning the agricultural sector, the Myanmar delegation also made arrangements for joint cooperation in cultivating and producing good quality Israeli crops and cereals by using irrigation water in Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation led by Lt. Gen. Myint Aung left Thailand on 14 May and proceeded to Malaysia. In Malaysia, the Myanmar delegation observed the cultivation of sugar cane and sugar production, plantations of oil-palm and rubber trees, and the processing of rubber. The delegation also met with Malaysian sugar factory owners and held discussions and coordinated on the mutual investment and joint ventures in the sugar factories in Myanmar.

Rangoon Troops Recapture Towns From Khun Sa

BK2305084194 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 21 May 94 pp 1, 13

[Text] Sengchun Salween, spokesman of the Shan State SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], revealed that the Tai Yai's national liberation army under the leadership of Khun Sa earlier launched attacks on the strongholds of Burmese Government troops in all parts of the Shan State and seized from the government side several towns such as Mong Hsat, Kengtung, Mong Hsai, Doi Laem, Doi Namchang, and Mong Chot. The fighting between three battalions and seven companies of government troops and Khun Sa's army and a combined force comprising Tai Yai, Red Wa, Haw, and Karen ethnic groups resulted in the deaths of 300 of Khun Sa's soldiers and injuries to 600 others. Casualties on the government side were 500 killed and over 1,000 wounded. The government sent six jet fighters to bomb Mong Pan, now under Khun Sa's control, but the bombing mission had to be canceled due to poor visibility. Moreover, Khun Sa has reportedly installed 10 SAM-7 missiles around Muang Jod to deter any attempted offensives by the government side.

According to the latest battle report, several government battalions attacked Khun Sa's strongholds and recaptured all the towns except the major strategic township of Mong Chot. Some 7,000 government troops together with 1,200 porters are now rallying in an area north of Mong Chot on the western bank of the Salween River.

Phairot Thomat, a senior district clerk of Wiang Haeng District in Chiang Mai Province, disclosed that the battle between the Burmese Government troops and Khun Sa's army took place some 18 kilometers from the Thai border and the sound of gunfire could be heard in the district for the whole day yesterday. The report received by the district office confirmed the recapture of several towns from Khun Sa's army by the government side. Meanwhile, Narong Kon-athit, chief of Wiang Haeng District, is now inspecting and closely monitoring the situation along the Thai-Burmese border.

According to a correspondent dispatch, trade activities at Piang Luang market comprising 150 shops and the black market at Lak Taeng village in Wiang Haeng District were rather sluggish. Some shops reported that their daily sales were less than 300 baht. Earlier, the amount of money circulating at the markets each month was formerly recorded at 30 to 40 million baht.

Tat Thon, chief of the Information Office of the Shan State SLORC, said during an interview that he had not received any reports on the United States planning to join the suppression operation against Khun Sa's army. However, he reaffirmed that Khun Sa's army is still capable of putting up resistance to the government's offensives.

According to a report from Government House, the issue of drug kingpin Khun Sa or Chang Sifu, was raised up for discussion during the 20 May meeting of the National Security Council, as it has been reported that the United States will join hands with the Burmese Government to launch a massive suppression operation against Khun Sa in the near future. The United States believes that the success of operation will greatly reduce the amount of narcotics smuggled to that country while the operation itself helps the Burmese Government eliminate its ethnic enemy. Burmese soldiers will be used during the operation while the U.S. side provides logistics support.

The meeting reportedly agreed that Thai authorities must be alert and impose stricter security measures along the border with Burma to prevent any intrusion and ensure security for Thai villagers in the border areas.

Twenty-One Rebels Surrender at Army Camps

BK1905110794 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF BURMA in English 21 Apr 94 p 6

[Text] After realizing their disruptive acts did not bring any benefit to the country and the people, more members of various armed groups returned to the legal fold, bringing in arms and ammunition, and surrendered at various Tatmadaw [Defense Services] camps from 7 to 19 March 1994.

In southeast command area, Private Tin Maung of the BCP [Burma Communist Party] armed group, bringing in two M-16 automatics [rifles] and 100 rounds of ammunition, surrendered at Kanmaw camp; Pvt. Win Htein of Kayin [Karen] armed group, bringing in one grenade, at Pe camp; Pvt. Saw San Phe at Heinda camp; Pvt. Moe Nit at Kamarhsaing camp; Pvt. Ye Win of brigade No. 1, bringing in one AK-47 automatic, at Natgyi camp; Pvt. Saw Laule of Battalion No. 10 at Pakari camp; leader of Mon armed group Tun Thi alias Maung Thi, bringing in one Icon walkie-talkie set and one grenade, at Thanbyuzayat camp; Pvt. Llarimon alias Ko Oo of central supply depot, at the same camp; Pvt. Kyi Lwin of extortion money collection group, bringing in one grenade, at Natgyizin camp; Company Commander Nai Aung Myint of Battalion No. 111, bringing in one AK-47 automatic, at Payathonzu camp; Pvts. Thaung Dan, Kyaw Naing alias Pho Ohn, and Pho Cho alias Zaw Naing of ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] Battalion No. 203, at Narlaw camp; Corporal Khin Soe of Battalion No. 201 at Dawei [Tavoy] camp, and Platoon Commander Mulabi of Muslim armed group, bringing in one AK-47 automatic, at Tanintharyi [Tenasserim] camp.

In Yangon [Rangoon] command area, Platoon Commander Tin Maung Htay of Pyithu Pyichit Party armed group surrendered at the office of Military Region-2, and teacher Bo Bo Shwe of Kayin armed group through Yankin Township Law and Order Restoration Council.

In eastern command area, Pvt. Aung Tha Tun of Pa-O-Ni armed group Battalion No 2, bringing in one mortar shell, surrendered at Pekon camp; Pvt. Hkun Thein Tan, bringing in one carbine, at Bote camp; and

Section Leader Hsan Khan of Battalion No. 3, bringing in one M-16 automatic and 62 rounds of ammunition, at Hsihseng camp.

In northern command area, Pvt. Min Oo of ABSDF armed group battalion No. 702 surrendered at Namma camp. A total of 21 members of various armed groups surrendered at various Tatmadaw camps and officials of the camps warmly welcomed them.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

New Iranian Envoy Presents Message From Velayati

LD2205204794 Tehran IRNA in English 2024 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Seri Begawan, May 22, IRNA—Kamal Najjari, the first Iranian ambassador to Seri Begawan, Brunei, here Sunday submitted a message from the Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to the Foreign Minister of Brunei, Mohamed Bolkiah.

The foreign minister of Brunei expressed pleasure with the opening of the Iranian embassy in Seri Begawan and observed that Brunei looks forward to broadening of relations with Iran. He also commented that Brunei wanted to benefit from Iran's experience in her first five-year national development plan (1989-94) as well as participate in the economic and development projects for the second national development plan.

Malaysia

Government Criticizes UK Statement on Bosnia

BK2005154794 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Malaysia cannot accept the statement by Britain which wants the Bosnian Government to accept defeat in its war against the Serbs. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi explained that if the statement is accepted, it will mean that Malaysia and the whole world agree with the policy of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to the minister, the statement made by Britain indicates that the country will not do anything to bring about peace in Bosnia.

Mahathir Sees 'Improvement' in British Media

BK2305062894 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0308 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said there has been an improvement in the British media reports on Malaysia after the Malaysian Government banned new government contracts to British companies following adverse reports on the country.

We notice an improvement, particularly after the person (Andrew Neil, editor of THE SUNDAY TIMES) who started such reports, had been transferred, he said Sunday.

We will see whether his transfer will bring about a drastic difference in the (British media) reports, he told reporters at the airport after welcoming back Malaysia's badminton team which participated in the Thomas Cup tournament in Jakarta. Malaysia lost 0-3 to Indonesia.

Neil, 44, has been seconded to New York from next month to launch a current affairs programme of the Fox Television Network. He will be the executive editor of the new programme for seven months.

Replying to a question, Dr. Mahathir said the government would wait a while before deciding whether to offer contracts again to British firms because it wanted to ensure that the British media truly stopped its allegations against Malaysia.

Ban on UK Firms, U.S. Trade Policy Contrasted

BK2205121794 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1057 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Singapore, May 20 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia's ban on British firms from bidding for government contracts cannot be compared with American trade policy in Asia, Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Friday. He said the Malaysian ban was not an attempt to impose its standards and values on the British.

Malaysia had no choice but to impose the ban because the country was made a victim and falsely accused of wrongdoings in Anglo-Malaysian trade by the British media, he said.

We suffer in every single decision that we made... Every contract awarded to the British will create problems for the government, for the leaders and the people, he told reporters at the airport here before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

Anwar was asked whether Malaysia's action against British companies could be compared to the United States' policy to link trade with human rights issues such as towards China.

New Zealand Premier Bolger Ends Visit 21 May

BK2305102394 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger said he is confident that the East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, will not cause strain or stress to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, should the caucus remain within APEC. He said this at the end of his three-day visit to Malaysia.

Mr. Bolger added that Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed had briefed him on the caucus during their discussions.

Commentary Views Greater Trade Ties With Iran

BK2305161294 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 23 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The week-long Iranian trade exhibition in Kuala Lumpur is evidence that Iran is keen to establish direct trading links with Malaysia. This coincides with Malaysia's emphasis on boosting trade with South-South as well as fellow Islamic nations. Although Iran is an important trading partner for Malaysia, the trade figures have been relatively insignificant. In 1993, bilateral trade stood at only 310 million ringgit.

It is encouraging to note that the figure, though small, had in fact increased by 75 percent over 1992. The potential for increased trade is there in view that there are now more bilateral visits. With over 80 Iranian companies taking part in the expo, there is bound to be business tie-ups, possibly on a long-term basis. The reason for the unsatisfactory level of trade and investment is mainly due to the lack of information. This has led to trade being conducted by middlemen and other third parties which, inevitably, results in more expensive products. Through direct trade, products will be more competitive. The Malaysian and Iranian private sectors should also take stock of the economic opportunities available. There also needs to be more promotions like the expo. Such a trade display would go a long way in promoting greater awareness of the opportunities for importing from Iran. Another problem is the negative Western media coverage of Iran. As such, it is important Malaysian entrepreneurs find out for themselves the opportunities available in Iran rather than listening to third parties.

Iranian businessmen should look to invest in Malaysia in areas such as resource-based industries, ancillary and supporting industries, and the agro-based sector. It could also make Malaysia the gateway to the ASEAN and the larger Asia-Pacific market. This is where Malaysia's marketing experience and network of contacts can come in.

The two governments have put in place the necessary agreements to facilitate commercial relations. Malaysian companies have the expertise in mining, downstream processing of agricultural products, and mineral resource sectors. Besides this, Malaysians can offer their know-how in the services sector such as telecommunications, finance, engineering consultancy, construction, and infrastructure development. This ties in neatly with Iran's five-year development plan.

Malaysian investors should also take note of the immense opportunities in the free trade zones of the (?Kish) and Qeshum Islands in the southern regions of Iran. With Iran looking to privatize its companies and Malaysia's success in the area, there is much room for mutual benefit.

Closer Malaysian-Iranian ties are crucial in opening new market opportunities, especially with the emergence of powerful trade blocs. Iran borders seven Asian Muslim countries and six Arab countries on the side of the Persian Gulf, so there is a lot of export potential.

With Malaysia and Iran subscribing to free trade, a new chapter in greater trade and investment could very well be opening up between the two countries.

Trade Ministry on Quarterly Investment Figures

BK2205075794 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0909 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 20 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) approved 240 projects involving an investment of RM [Ringgit Malaysia] 5,838.8 million (US$1: RM2.70) in the first four months of this year.

Minister Rafidah Aziz said Friday that the figure was an improvement on the 231 projects involving RM2,930.3 million for the same period last year.

Speaking at the launching of Teac's one millionth floppy disc in Batu Berendam, Melaka, 140 km to the south of here, she said, 11 projects had investments in excess of RM100 million while 229 had less than the amount.

She said 62 companies were owned by foreigners, 66 by locals and 109 were owned jointly, adding that by sector, electronics had the largest number of investors both local and foreign with 63 projects involving RM690.08 million.

Rafidah also said that there were five companies nationwide producing floppy discs with a total annual output of 19 million units.

From this figure, 80 per cent was exported to the United States, Japan and Korea while the remainder was for local use.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Leaders Support King's Truce Proposal

BK2205132594 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 22 May 94

["Letter from top leaders of the Royal Government of Cambodia to His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk" issued in Phnom Penh on 22 May—read by announcer]

[Text] To His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia:

Your Majesty, we have received your message dated 22 May 1994 concerning the roundtable to be held next week in your Chhanghsu-on Palace.

Concerning the second and third points in your message, we would like to beg permission to inform Your Majesty as follows:

A. Concerning the second point, we would like to voice our support for your lofty idea on an unconditional, immediate, complete, lasting, and irreversible cease-fire over all Cambodia. We also support your lofty idea on the monitoring of this cease-fire by an inter-Cambodian commission to be made up of general and high- ranking military officers from the Khmer Royal Armed Forces and the Khmer Rouge group and led by two neutral generals representing His Majesty the King of Cambodia.

Moreover, we are of the opinion that as a more concrete and realistic move, we propose that 13 June 1994 be observed as the beginning of the cease-fire.

B. Concerning the third point, we would like to voice support for your lofty initiative in solemnly declaring our eternal allegiance to and support for a unified Cambodia without territorial secession [words indistinct] for national peace, unity, harmony, and prosperity within the framework of a joint endeavor to build the Cambodian nation.

We would like also to energetically support your noble idea on continuing to make enormous efforts to (?achieve a solution to the Cambodian problem). We will arrive in Beijing on 25 May to accompany Your Majesty to Chhanghsu-on Palace on 26 May. We would like to beg Your Majesty to grant us an audience at your residence in Beijing any time at your convenience.

May Your Majesty and the Queen enjoy Lord Buddha's blessings for longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment. Please forgive any inappropriateness.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 May 1994

[Signed] Chea Sim, acting head of state and chairman of the National Assembly; Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister; Hun Sen, second prime minister

Khmer Rouge Agree To Attend Peace Talks in Pyongyang

BK2205075594 Phnom Penh AKP in English 0905 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP May 21—Khmer Rouge Leader Khieu Samphan has agreed to participate in the peace negotiations with the Royal Government at King Sihanouk's resident of Chhanghsu-on in Pyongyang to be held on May 27.

In a message to King Norodom Sihanouk dated on May 19, Khieu Samphan said he was very happy to participate in the round-table talks for peace and national reconciliation scheduled for May 27 in Pyongyang under the chairmanship of his majesty king.

Khmer Rouge's message was an response to King Sihanouk's letter to the faction nominal leader asking for a "clear answer" on the proposed round-table to negotiations.

The Chhanghsu-on round-table negotiations will be attended by Chea Sim, president fo the Cambodia People's Party and of National Assembly and acting head of state; Co-prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen; and Khmer Rouge Leader Khieu Samphan, King Sihanouk will preside over the talks.

King Sihanouk has told the delegations to the talks they will have to pay for their accommodations and flight tickets.

The North Korean Government would pay for the costs of hosting the talks in Pyongyang, Sihanouk said.

King Appoints Ambassador, Promotes Army Officer

BK2005095494 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0405 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 May (AKP)—Two personages of the former State of Cambodia regime have been nominated by decrees signed by His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia.

Mr. Sek Settha, deputy foreign minister of the old regime, has been nominated ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Russian Federation. Mr. Nhim Vanda has been promoted to four-star general of the Khmer Royal Army [KRA]. He is authorized by the two prime ministers to be in charge of the special commission to provide supplies to military forces on the front.

Under the State of Cambodia, Mr. Nhim Vanda was trade minister and deputy defense minister in charge of the Army's General Logistics Department.

PDK Rejects Charge on Malaysia Embassy Attack

BK2305035194 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 May 94

[Statement by unidentified spokesman of the party of Democratic Kampuchea issued on 20 May; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I. A grenade was reportedly thrown into the Malaysian embassy in Phnom Penh on the night of 18

May 1994. The report said the grenade attack is related to the issue of foreign military aid to the two-headed government.

II. The two-headed government has accused the Khmer Rouge of throwing the grenade.

III. The spokesman of the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] vehemently and utterly rejects the abovementioned abominable and despicable accusation by the two-headed government, which is the out-and-out puppet and tool of the communist Vietnamese and the alliance of the mischievous superpowers with the U.S., France, and Australia as the ringleaders.

IV. The public opinion inside and outside the country, the Cambodian people, and people in the region have all known, heard, and seen clearly that the two-headed elements—puppets of the communist Vietnamese and the United States—are the traitors who have sold out the nation and unhesitatingly killed the Cambodian people. These two-headed elements are the cause of terror in society and of insecurity throughout Phnom Penh, including theft, robbery, murder, vice, the path of ruin and immorality, corruption, prostitution, AIDS, and so forth.

All these have emanated from systematic preparations, plans, and activities of the communist Vietnamese, communist Vietnamese puppets, and remnants of the evil allies.

V. The Cambodian people want national reconciliation and peace. The two-headed elements only act in contrast to what the people want. King Norodom Sihanouk has warned if the war dies, peace will survive. The answer from the two-headed elements is war, war, and war! After suffering serious and bitter defeats at Anlung Veng and Pailin with all strategic forces and all kinds of weapons smashed and arms, tanks, and artillery left behind on the battlefield, they have loudly called on their partners to provide arms aid to the two- headed government for carrying on the war to further kill the Cambodian nation and people.

The Cambodian people have gone through many tests and trials. They will definitely not allow the traitors, foreign lackeys, arch corrupt elements, and evil allies to suck their blood and rule the roost at will. The current of people's desire for national reconciliation and peace is enormous and mighty. By going against this current, all of you will definitely perish like salt dissolved by water and candle burned away by fire.

[Signed] The PDK spokesman

[Dated] 20 May 1994

VGNUFC Denounces SRV Statement as Threat to Cambodia

BK2305071794 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 May 94

[Unattributed commentary: "The Communist Vietnamese Are Again Showing Their Black Fangs To Threaten Cambodia"]

[Text] In a recent statement issued by their Foreign Ministry, the communist Vietnamese have again bared their fangs to threaten Cambodia and show that they are in charge as before.

In a statement issued by their Foreign Ministry in Hanoi, the communist Vietnamese expressed regret that the Cambodian masses held demonstrations in Phnom Penh to demand the expulsion of the nearly four million Vietnamese from Cambodia. In the same statement, the communist Vietnamese criticized the Cambodian king for saying in an interview that Vietnam has moved the border markers deeper into Cambodian territory.

Through this statement of their Foreign Ministry spokesman, the communist Vietnamese are baring their black fangs to coerce anyone in fear of them into remembering that they are the boss. As a result, they are able to send huge numbers of Vietnamese nationals into Cambodia and annex Cambodian territory, both sea and land, at will without any hindrance—whether it be demonstrations against them or the Cambodian king [words indistinct].

This statement also asks the Vietnamese lackeys in Phnom Penh why they have allowed the Cambodian people to hold demonstrations to demand the expulsion of the Vitnamese men and women from Cambodia and permitted the Cambodian king to give an interview, in which they are accused of nibbling Cambodian territory. It also warns them to suppress the demonstrators and to silence the Cambodian king.

You communist Vietnamese can never cow the Cambodian people. The Cambodian people both in the countryside and in Phnom Penh are rising up to deal heavy blows to your puppets and those puppets of the western alliance who have joined hands with you in killing the Cambodian nation and people. The Cambodian people will not stand still to let you kill them at will. For more than 15 years now, you black-teeth communists have invaded and occupied Cambodia and sowed untold destruction for the Cambodian nation and people. Now you are colluding with the western alliance in continuing to kindle the war through your two categories of puppets so that you can send Vietnamese men and women to plunder the Cambodian nation and people at will, thus causing untold misery to the Cambodian people.

The Cambodian people can no longer tolerate you. Accordingly, they will definitely not allow you to continue kindling the war to destroy the Cambodian nation and people. The Cambodian people will continue to hit you and your puppets and struggle on until national reconciliation and peace is achieved and every Cambodian can live and earn his living peacefully.

You call only for war, war, war; and fight, fight, fight!

The Cambodian people therefore have the right to hold demonstrations to call for peace, peace, peace and an end to war; and to reject the warmongers.

Indonesia

ROK Foreign Minister Begins Official Visit

Arrives in Jakarta 22 May

BK2305064894 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1354 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Jakarta, May 22 (ANTARA)—Visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu here Sunday confirmed that Seoul is expecting Indonesia's support for its plan to apply for a UN Security Council [UNSC] non-permanent membership for 1996-1997.

"We are expecting that South Korea and Indonesia will be able to get seats at the UNSC. And we are expecting that Indonesia will fully support our plan," said Han on arrival at Cengkareng International Airport.

Indonesia is also planning to apply for a seat at UNSC for the same period.

The visiting minister said that his country's expectation to have full support from Indonesia is on the grounds that Indonesia as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement plays important roles in world affairs.

"Indonesia plays important roles not only in United Nations affairs but also in maintaining peace in the eastern Asia region," he stressed. He termed Indonesia's role in maintaining peace in the eastern Asia region crucial and helpful. Han said that he had also conveyed his country's expectation to other countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.

Asked about issues he would discuss with President Suharto, he revealed that one of the topics would be the problem of nuclear weapon in the Korean peninsula.

On the occasion, the minister also confirmed that South Korea's President Kim Yong-sam will attend the forthcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meeting in November this year in Jakarta.

Han is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Alatas on Monday and President Suharto the following day. He said that the two sides would discuss ways to deepen, strengthen and expand ties between Indonesia and South Korea.

Han's visit to Indonesia is the first made by a South Korean minister since the establishment of a civilian government in the northeastern Asian country in 1992.

Meets With Alatas 23 May

SK2305080994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0719 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Jakarta, May 23 (YONHAP)—The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) will seek a "balanced" view on the North Korean nuclear standoff at its foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo next week, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Monday.

Meeting his South Korean counterpart Han Sung-chu, Alatas explained that Cairo will be in charge of drafting the final document that is to include the first clause on the nuclear dispute.

Alatas said Indonesia, as chairman of NAM, will try to reflect a balanced position on the matter that is unbiased toward both North and South Korea and the international community, Yu Pyong-u, director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau at the South Korean Foreign Ministry, said after the two-hour talks.

Alatas said his government will "have sympathy" for South Korea's bid to gain a non-permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, noting that Jakarta is aware of Seoul's position. South Korea is expected to compete with Sri Lanka for the council slot for 1996-97.

Indonesia has been the object of heavy diplomatic lobbying by North Korea, which keeps its third largest mission here with a staff of 25 as a base camp for Southeast Asia.

NAM foreign ministers meet May 31 in Cairo and the row over Pyongyang's nuclear program is on the agenda for the first time, with the final document at the end of the meeting June 3 to address the issue.

Alatas commented on the need for overall revisions to the makeup of the permanent membership of the Security Council, pointing out that all current members except China are advanced nations. He emphasized that developing countries should be duly represented as well, Yu said.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in November, to be hosted by Indonesia.

Alatas notified Han that the summit is slated for Nov. 15, preceded by a ministerial conference Nov. 11-12. Despite the expected changes from last year when the United States and other advanced nations stole the spotlight, Alatas explained his country plans to follow the format of last year's summit.

In addition, the two foreign ministers discussed prospects for the Malaysia-led East Asian Economic Caucus

(EAEC), a sub-group within APEC that raised U.S. officials' eyebrows when advanced countries were excluded.

Alatas said the matter will be discussed fully with South Korea, Japan and China as well as Australia, Canada and the United States.

Alatas Welcomes Ramos Decision on Timor Conference

BK2005134494 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Indonesia has welcomed the Philippine Government's decision to deny entry to all foreign delegates to a seminar on East Timor to be held in Manila. Commenting on the decision of Philippine President Fidel Ramos on the conference, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said in a press statement in Jakarta today that he is awaiting a formal report from the Indonesian Embassy in Manila on the matter. He said the conference engineered by Ramos Horta [leader of the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor or Fretilin] will in fact not be an academic seminar on human rights but will clearly be part of Ramos Horta's political campaign to discredit the Indonesian Government. Accordingly, Alatas hoped the Philippine Government will cancel the planned conference as well, because this will reflect the common views of the two countries on the matter.

Embassy Admits Exporters Shipped Toxic Waste

BK2305094294 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1404 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Jakarta, May 20 (ANTARA)—The Dutch Embassy stated here on Friday that its exporters had shipped containers of waste to Indonesia, some of them hazardous. It said its exporters had shipped 48 out of the 70 waste checked containers through the port in Rotterdam. Six of the 48 containers were found containing dangerous and toxic wastes while the others solid plastic wastes probably from households and industries. It denied that its exporters had shipped 14 containers to Indonesia through several ports in the Netherlands.

Based on an existing Dutch act some of the wastes manifested no signs of danger and therefore checks had only been made upon samples taken from the outer part of the containers. It also said the wastes had been solidified into bales so that their recycling process would depend much on importers' technical expertise.

An expert team from the Netherlands had been in Indonesia from May 2 to 19 to meet the importers and check plastic recycling methods in the country. This team would report the results of their examination to the Dutch Ministry of Environment for legal scrutiny to avoid any posible recurrance in the future.

Cooperation Accords Signed With Malaysia

BK2005084294 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1733 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Jakarta, May 19 (ANEX-ANTARA)—Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie said Thursday ASEAN amity could be significantly fostered by cooperation in technology and human resources development. He said ASEAN member countries had a political commitment to undertake the improvement of the quality of their human resources in ways compatible with "the ASEAN spirit."

The minister was speaking at a ceremony marking the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation in various fields between Indonesia and Malaysia.

Habibie signed the document for Indonesia, while Malaysian Defence Minister Datuk Sri Mohamed Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak did the same for Malaysia.

Several other Indonesia-Malaysia accords were also inked at the ceremony. One was between the state-owned aircraft-making company IPTN and the Malaysian Defence Department and another between the Indonesian Air Force and Malaysia's Airod [company specilіazing in aircraft repairs and overhaul].

ASEAN unity or solidarity has lately become a topic of public discussion following the emergence of a difference of views between Jakarta and Manila about the scheduled holding of a seminar on East Timor in Manila.

According to spokesman for the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry Irawan Abidin, the Philippine Government could not meet Indonesia's demand that the meeting be called off but had promised it would try to have the topics to be discussed at the proposed seminar limited.

Malaysia was among several countries which disagreed with the plan and said such a seminar was an effort to damage ASEAN friendship.

In response to President Suharto's statement on the possibility of marketing Malaysia's Proton Saga cars at relatively low price in Indonesia, Habibie said that it was a breakthrough which was expected to bring this archipelagic country to the technology of the future.

President Suharto had reportedly told Razak at a meeting Thursday the Malaysian cars can be sold in Indonesia, especially if the cars use components made in Indonesia.

Thailand

Further on U.S. Allegations of Drug Dealing

Chuan To 'Get Rid' of MP's Involved

BK2005122494 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 May 94 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai told Parliament yesterday some MPs were suspected of involvement in drug deals and he vowed to get rid of them. He said he had a list of suspected drug dealing politicians, including MPs and provincial and local politicians, but declined to reveal who or how many there were.

Mr Chuan said the list was not updated and those who had been in previous governments for the past several years would know as much as he did. But the list of suspected drug dealing politicians was not provided by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, according to the Premier.

The Premier pledged to take action against all drug dealers no matter if they were MPs or other politicians.

"Don't ask who they are or how many. That's useless. We don't have any evidence to pin them down. We only have suspicions."

Mr Chuan said he did not have any evidence which could lead to the arrests of any MPs and disclosure of their names would not be of any help.

"It's the duty of my Government to suppress all vice and I believe no party wants to have bad MPs."

But the Premier did not confirm or deny news reports that Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong had claimed in a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday that 17 MPs were allegedly drug dealers.

Sqn Ldr Prasong dismissed the reports during his testimony before the House Committee for Parliamentary Affairs as well as during the full House meeting yesterday. The minister said he was doing the right thing for the prestige of Parliament and the country.

"It's a shame on us all. If you wore a bucket to hide your face, I would wear a bucket to hide my face, too," he said referring to drug claims against MPs. Mr Chuan said Cabinet meetings were supposed to be secret but admitted it was his Government's fault some information was leaked to the press.

Chat Phatthana MP Sophon Phetsawang and a few other MPs insisted the Premier tell the House whether or not Sqn Ldr Prasong had made such a claim during the weekly Cabinet meeting.

The Premier said the foreign minister had shown documents provided by United States authorities through the US Embassy in Bangkok on allegations that Chat Thai MP Thanong Siriprichaphong and Chat Phatthana MP Mongkhon Chongsuthamani had been involved in drug deals.

The US authorities seized Mr Thanong's home and car in California, lodged criminal charges against the Chat Thai MP for his alleged marijuana smuggling and revoked in March a visa for Mr Mongkhon, also suspected of having dealt in drugs. The foreign minister reported this to the Cabinet, Mr Chuan said.

Mr Thanong was suspected to be a marijuana smuggler between 1977 and 1987, the period during which he was not a Chat Thai MP, but the information pertaining to the claims was only recently exposed to the press, according to Mr Chuan. He did not think there was any conspiracy outside Parliament which might want to sabotage the House; only some MPs who might want to discredit other MPs or tarnish the entire House.

"I don't think there is any conspiracy. It's only among us. Don't blame anybody else."

His comment followed several MPs' claim that drug dealing charges against the 17 MPs might have been made as part of a conspiracy outside Parliament aimed at destroying the entire House.

Mr Chuan dismissed criticism that drugs claims surrounding the Opposition MPs were designed to pre-empt a no-confidence motion the Opposition had planned to launch against his Government.

Chawalit Threatens Media Control

BK2305104394 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 May 94 p A2

[Text] Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday issued a stern warning to the mass media, threatening tighter controls if they continue to publish or broadcast reports which affect innocent people.

The warning came amid much coverage in the press and other media on allegations of drug trafficking involving politicians.

The controversial reports were fuelled by a broadcast on Thursday by the radio Independent Network News (INN), which gave the initials of a number of politicians, government officials and police who were allegedly involved in the drug trade.

"Take it as my last request," Chawalit said. "I will not stand it if their reports affect innocent people again. Don't blame me if I take drastic action. I may ask to see the information before publication or broadcast."

Chawalit said if his warning was not heeded, his tough actions might start with reporters being prohibited from entering the Interior Ministry's compound for three days.

"From now on we must get tough with the mass media on their news presentation," Chawalit said. "If it is not true as reported, innocent people will be affected. This will also affect the credibility of the radio announcers if their reports are not true."

Chawalit said he would ensure that the affected party receives fair treatment in news coverage and presentation.

"We must deal with this problem seriously to bring about fair treatment. The mass media are not free to write anything and broadcast it the way they like. We must control the mass media to be up to standard to protect innocent people from being affected."

INN, quoting unnamed anti-narcotics officials, reported on Thursday that three government MPs were involved in narcotics trafficking. It identified them by their initials and positions, and said they belonged to a political party whose leader is the prime minister.

Later the agency said three opposition MPs were also involved in narcotics trafficking. Although it identified them only by their initials, it provided other details such as constituencies and party affiliations which made identification easy.

Senior anti-drug officials on Thursday denied INN's claim that staff of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) passed evidence of drug trafficking to the agency.

Speaking at a press conference at the Interior Ministry, Chawalit said he summoned the INN editor to question him about the sources of the news.

"He still insisted that he had received the correct information and had verified the information. But he refused to identify his sources," Chawalit said. Chawalit said he would like INN to apologize formally to the mentioned people to prevent more problems.

"I think the mentioned people are ready to forgive so that there would be no more trouble," the minister said. But, Chawalit said, he expected more trouble because the news agency insisted it had done nothing wrong.

Three Democrat MPs have vowed to sue INN while opposition members were also reported to be considering similar action.

A senior police official accused by the agency also threatened to seek damages of Bt20 million. The minister said he would not revive the annulled Decree 42, which once allowed police to shut down newspapers without seeking court orders.

Chawalit said many complaints had been made against the mass media recently. He cited a headline by SIAM POST newspaper, partly saying "the Parliament of duo lions on the globe"—a reference to a brand of heroin—as an example of a news report which affected innocent people.

"All parliamentarians were angry at being accused this way," Chawalit said. The minister said he would like the mass media to act with honor and credibility by not publishing untrue reports.

"I would like them to identify their sources more clearly," the minister said.

Late Thursday night, INN radio news identified more businessmen and politicians it alleged were involved in drug trafficking. INN quoted sources again quoted from the ONCB. This time, though, INN gave full names and surnames of the alleged drug traffickers.

Accused MP Resigns From Party

BK2105093994 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 21 May 94

[Excerpt] Chat Thai Party has approved the resignation of Thanong Siriprichaphong, member of the House of Representatives from Nakhon Phanom, who is accused by the United States of being involved in the narcotics trade. Thanong's resignation from the party thus automatically terminated his membership in the House.

Speaking to reporters at Chat Thai Party's head office at noon today, Banhan Sinlapa-acha, leader of Chat Thai Party, said that the approval of Thanong Siriprichaphong's resignation was made on the recommendation of the fact-finding committee set up earlier by the party. However, as yet, Thanong Siriprichaphong is still considered innocent because the court has not yet ruled that he is guilty. Banhan said the drug charge against Thanong has caused severe damage to the country and its political institutions as well as to the Chat Thai Party. [passage ommitted]

Mongkhon Threatens Lawsuits

BK2305133394 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 22 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Text] Chat Phatthana MP for Chiang Rai Mongkhon Chongsuthamani yesterday threatened to file defamation lawsuits against the American Embassy and the Foreign Ministry or Minister Prasong Sunsiri for allegedly linking him with the narcotics trade.

Mr Mongkhon said before leaving for his home province in the morning that he would study what legal aspects could be used against those who damaged his reputation.

He and other Opposition MPs have been angered by reports that Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong told last week's Cabinet meeting that 17 Opposition MPs were suspected by the U.S. of involvement in illicit drug businesses and that three of them were denied entry visas to the US.

A Cabinet source quoted Sqn Ldr Prasong as naming Mr Mongkhon as one of the three MPs whose visa applications were rejected.

The foreign minister, however, denied that at the Cabinet meeting he had identified any drug suspects or those whose U.S. visas were refused.

Mr Mongkhon tearfully told the House on Thursday that he had never been involved in drug trafficking and had never been told by the United States Embassy that a visa which was issued to him in 1991 could not be used now.

The United States Information Services on Friday issued a statement saying there was "reason to believe" that Mr Mongkhon was involved in the drugs trade, therefore his visa was denied under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

According to the statement, the Chiang Rai MP had been told in writing why he was ineligible for a visa.

Mr Mongkhon, however, repeatedly denied yesterday that he or anyone at his house had ever received such a letter from the embassy. There was no evidence to prove the letter had been sent to his house.

"I was surprised why that letter never reached me although I have my address here."

He asked the news media to help trace that letter for him.

"The news media should ask for proof (that the letter was sent to Mr Mongkhon) from the embassy."

According to Mr Mongkhon, the embassy told him the visa could not be issued because it needed a few more documents but did not say anything about suspected drug involvement.

Mr Mongkhon said he could not say whether the embassy was giving false evidence but wondered why the news had just been revealed during a time of rising conflict between the Government and the Opposition.

He said he believed the drug allegations against him were politically motivated, accusing the Government of trying to get the upper hand on the Opposition after senators and Opposition parties turned down its draft constitution amendment bills last month.

"The embassy should have informed me in February or March when the visa application was rejected. I do not understand why everything has just happened now," Mr Mongkhon said.

The Chiang Rai MP said he would hold a press conference after meeting party leader Chatchai Chunhawan today. He would also ask the U.S. embassy why it did not send a letter to him to advise that his entry visa was denied.

Mr Mongkhon said the fact that he used to be the secretary of former agriculture and cooperatives minister Narong Wongwan, who was alleged to be on the U.S. blacklist of drug suspects should not be relevant to the drug allegations against him. He challenged the Government to take legal action against him so he could prove he was innocent.

The MP, who happened to take the same flight to the northern province with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, said he might ask the premier for just treatment.

The Chat Phatthana Party issued a statement saying it would certainly take tough action against Mr Mongkhon if any criminal charge filed against him was proven.

The party said that at this stage Mr Mongkhon had not been charged in the U.S. or Thailand. The visa was denied on suspicion only.

Editorial Defends Media Role on Drug Reports

BK2305110194 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 May 94 p A6

[Editorial: "Don't Blame the Media for MP's Alleged Drug Dealing"]

[Text] There were fireworks in Parliament on Thursday over drug allegations against MPs.

Several lawmakers have been suspected of involvement in drug trafficking. Thanong Siriprichaphong, an opposition Chat Thai MP, has been charged by US authorities with smuggling more than 45 tones of marijuana into the United States between 1977 and 1987.

On Tuesday, it was reported that Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri told the Cabinet that a further 17 Thai politicians had been blacklisted by the United States for suspected involvement in drugs. Of the 17 accused, he reportedly said 10 were present opposition lawmakers and seven former MPs.

Fuelling speculation further were fresh allegations made by the Independent Network News [INN] radio that apart from opposition MPs, three government lawmakers were also suspected of involvement in the drug trade. INN, quoting unnamed anti-narcotics officials, identified them only by their initials and positions, and said they belonged to a political party whose leader is the prime minister, an obvious reference to the Democrat Party.

While the government was caught offguard, INN also turned the heat on the opposition by identifying three leading opposition MPs alleged to be involved with illegal drugs, through their initials, constituencies and party affiliations.

Rather than initiate serious action in response to these allegations. Lawmakers—both government and opposition—have tended to blame the media for the controversy that only appears to be getting messier.

After angry opposition parties on Wednesday threatened to seek his expulsion if he failed to name the 17 suspected MPs, Foreign Minister Prasong apparently got cold feet and denied ever telling the Cabinet about the 17. Prasong said he had only told the Cabinet meeting that Thai people from various fields including the military, the police, business and politics are involved in drug smuggling, without naming any individuals.

"If anybody here wants to talk about the 17 MPs, then go and ask the media which publicized the issue, he said.

When cornered, it is easy to past the buck and blame the messenger for whatever consequences might arise in the pursuit to accurately report events to the public.

The fact of the matter is that the individuals implicated are not ordinary Thais. They are the people's representatives in Parliament—which is supposed to be the bulwark of democracy.

The role of the media in Thailand, unlike in several neighboring countries, is to act as the public's watchdog. If politicians with backgrounds that indicate they have made fortunes illicitly have been elected as MPs, then the public has every right to know about it.

After the bloody May events in 1992, all politicians have to realize that democracy in the country is of the people, by the people and for the people, with the media playing the very important role safeguarding the people's interests.

Recent remarks made by opposition MPs that Foreign Minister Prasong as well as the three Democrat lawmakers should sue newspapers and radio stations for reporting "lies" are uncalled for and show the narrow-mindedness typical of many members of parliament.

When members of Parliament are implicated in drug-trafficking, they cannot just be viewed as isolated incidents because the image of the whole country is adversely affected.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai told Parliament he would not hesitate to get rid of MPs if they were involved in drug trafficking. "It's the duty of my government to suppress all vice and I believe no party wants to have bad MPs," he added.

But these are mere words and mean nothing unless concrete action is taken.

Money laundering legislation must be introduced without delay giving authorities the right to investigate the financial status of drug suspects. In the world today, hard drugs like heroin and cocaine are killing thousands of people every year. Unfortunately, in Thailand it appears there are many people occupying positions of power who have no compunction whatsoever about supplying illegal drugs to foreign markets. Amassing wealth through such illegal means does not even prick their conscience.

For democracy to work, even on the most basic level, the public must be kept informed. It is the duty of the media to provide the information necessary to help people vote in good MPs to the House of Representatives.

The media is only trying its best to preserve the dignity of the House by reporting what is actually happening. In the broader interests of the country and salvaging Thailand's international reputation the media must not be prevented from doing so.

'Source' Previews U.S. Aviation Talks in June

BK2305075094 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 May 94 p 17

[Text] Thailand and the United States are to hold a second round of aviation talks in Bangkok next month following the success of their first meeting in Washington last April, according to a source at the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The meeting, which will be held at the Transport and Communications Ministry in the fourth week of June, is a positive sign, and the two countries may be able to reach a new aviation agreement soon, the source said.

"The meeting shows that this time we're getting closer to key points of the agreement, especially on seat and cargo capacities, but Thailand will maintain its position on the equal capacity principle," the source said.

Thailand and the U.S. aviation industry have been deadlocked for three years because they differ on the allocation of cabin and load factors. The United States supports an "open skies" policy while Thailand holds to the principle of "capacity pre-determination."

The Thai delegation will be led by Transport Permanent Secretary Mahidon Chantharangkun while the U.S. team will be headed by Carl Candiff the State Department's head of special negotiations for transport affairs.

The source said the United States wants to increase flights to Bangkok after the lifting of the embargo on Vietnam. Washington envisages more US tourists and businessmen travelling to Vietnam via Bangkok.

Thai Airways International [THAI] has no plans to increase flights to the United States in the short term. THAI flies to the United States four times a week on the Bangkok-Los Angeles route. U.S. airlines Delta, Northwest, and United Airlines operate a total of 21 flights a week to Bangkok.

Last week Thailand and Vietnam signed an aviation agreement to increase their seat capacities. According to the Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department, Dr. Sisuk Chantharangsu, the agreement will create a new destination for THAI at Danang besides Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh, which the airline currently services.

The agreement increases the seating capacity for both countries from 2,350 seats per week by an additional 620 seats, Mr Sisuk said.

THAI flies to Ho Chi Minh City seven times a week and to Hanoi three times a week. Vietnam operates seven flights a week on the Hanoi-Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh-Bangkok routes.

New Aviation Agreement Concluded With Vietnam

BK2305103094 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 21 May 94 p 2

[Text] Thailand and Vietnam have reached a new aviation agreement which allows more destinations and higher seating capacities, according to Civil Aviation Department director-general Sisuk Chantharangsu.

Mr Sisuk led a Thai delegation to negotiate the agreement with the Vietnamese Civil Aviation Department in Hanoi from Monday to Wednesday.

The agreement signed on Wednesday would allow Thai Airways International's [THAI] aircraft to land in Danang apart from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh as now, he said. With an old airport built by the U.S. and lots of new hotels, the seaside town of Danang was a potential spot for tourism as it was only 100 kilometers from the ancient town of Hue, Mr Sisuk said. THAI would be asked to study feasibility of traffic to Danang.

The route between Bangkok and Danang should be realized as Bangkok International Airport was the hub for as many as 72 airlines and tourists would take only about an hour and a quarter to continue to Danang, he said.

It would take about six months for THAI and Vietnam Airline to study the air traffic demand between Bangkok and Danang so direct flights for the route could begin next year, he said.

The new aviation agreement also increased seating capacity for both countries from 2,350 seats per week by 620.

The increase was prompted by "high yield" traffic demand between Thailand and Vietnam, he said, citing as many as 200,000 passengers travelling between Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh last year 12.3 per cent more than the previous year.

Of the 620-seat increase, national airlines of the two countries could have an immediate increase of 120, he said.

THAI flew seven times a week to Ho Chi Minh and three times a week to Hanoi, he said. Vietnam operated sever flights each on the Hanoi-Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh-Bangkok routes.

Vietnam

Agreement Reached With U.S. on Liaison Offices

BK2305032394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has held talks with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong during the latter's visit to the United States. Mr. Christopher described the talks as constructive. A State Department spokesman said: Both sides have reached a compromise on the establishment of liaison offices between the two countries.

U.S., Local Veterans Hold Meeting 17 May

BK2005122394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The delegation of Vietnam Veterans of America led by Chairman James (?Brazier) arrived in Hanoi on Monday for an eight-day visit to Vietnam. The visit is to exchange information on soldiers reported missing from both United States and Vietnam. On 17 May the U.S. delegation had a working session with the leaders of the Vietnam War Veterans Association.

Speaking with newsmen afterward, Mr. (Brazier) acknowledged that so far Vietnam has been very cooperative with the United States in solving the MIA issue. He said the United States of America was duly bound to respond to Vietnam's cooperation. The delegation of Vietnam Veterans of America also had a working session with the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Labor, Social, and War Invalids, the Vietnam-America Association, and the American Missing in Action Office in Vietnam.

The delegation will call at Hue, Danang, Ho Chi Minh City, and other provinces.

Reportage on ROK Foreign Minister's Visit

Commentary Previews Visit

BK2005121894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu will visit Vietnam this week. Our radio editor reviews Vietnam-South Korea relations.

The visit to Vietnam by South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu will further promote cooperative ties between Vietnam and the Republic of Korea. The event takes place nearly a year after the official visit to Seoul by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. It further proves that since the establishment of diplomatic relations in December 1992, ties between the two countries have significantly developed. Last year, the two-way trade turnover between Vietnam and South Korea was $800 million, an increase of 60 percent over 1992.

Vietnam has exported to South Korea coal, farm produce, textile, and sea foods; and imported from Korea electronic products, transport equipment and machinery. The two countries last year signed important agreements on investment encouragement and protection and trade, and aviation cooperation. They also initialed an agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

South Korea's investment in Vietnam has reached $530 million with 53 projects, an increase of 200 percent over 1992. Many large South Korean corporations such as Daewoo, Samsung, and Lucky Goldstar are undertaking major projects in Vietnam. South Korean investment in Vietnam diversified in area and territorial locations and in forms. South Korea has also granted Vietnam $50 million in development aid to help build infrastructures. It has also given grant of two million U.S. dollars to Vietnam.

South Korea is considered the country with dynamic economic development in Asia and the Pacific and Vietnam is also quickly developing. Therefore, both countries are becoming important partners in the Asia-Pacific era.

The coming visit by the South Korean foreign minister will contribute to taking the bilateral relations to a higher level.

Meets President Le Duc Anh 20 May

BK2205124794 Hanoi VNA in English 1407 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20—President Le Duc Anh received here this afternoon Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea (ROK) Han Sung-chu now on an official visit to Vietnam.

Foreign Minister Han conveyed to President Le Duc Anh best regards from President of ROK Kim Yong-sam. Mr. Han said he was glad to have seen the achievements the Vietnamese people recorded in their renovation process as well as the fine development of the economic cooperation between the two countries. He stressed that the ROK was ready to share experience with Vietnam and cooperate with it in national construction for mutual benefit, and for peace, stability, and development in the region.

For his part, President Le Duc Anh hailed Foreign Minister Han's visit as manifestation of the enhancement of the friendly and cooperative ties between Vietnam and ROK. He said he was confident that with good-will from both sides cooperation in economy, trade, education, science and technology, and the implementation of projects on infrastructural construction and technology transfer would gain good results, thus making contributions to the consolidation of peace, stability, and development in the region.

On this occasion, President Le Duc Anh asked Foreign Minister Han to convey his invitation to President Kim Yong-sam visit to Vietnam.

Meets With Vietnamese Counterpart

BK2205125094 Hanoi VNA in English 1421 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam today held talks with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu of the Republic of Korea (ROK) who is here on an official visit to Vietnam.

The two sides exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern, and measures to further strengthen the relations between the two countries, they also discussed how to further promote the Vietnamese-ROK bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, technology and science, culture, education and labour and other fields, including the implementation of the agreements the two countries had reached on the ROK's official development assistance (ODA) to Vietnam.

Foreign Ministers Cam and Han affirmed the two countries' desire to contribute to the consolidation of peace, stability and cooperation in Asia-the Pacific and in the world as a whole.

Also present at the talks were Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dinh Bin and ROK Ambassador Park No Su.

ROK Reporters Interview Nguyen Manh Cam

SK2105005894 Seoul YONHAP in English 2356 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Hanoi, May 21 (YONHAP)—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam vowed Friday to remove obstacles to foreign investment including that from South Korea.

"It's important that we realized Vietnam has many faults in its investment laws," Cam said in a press conference with visiting South Korean reporters. "It's important that we decided to overcome these obstacles and provide the right conditions to foreign investors."

Cam said Hanoi, in this connection, is prepared to simplify entry procedures for foreign visitors.

The foreign minister said Vietamese-South Korean economic cooperation reflects what is happening all over the world—the creation of one giant market in which all countries are interdependent.

"Moreover, we are located in the same region and share much in common in culture and history. We have very favorable conditions for mutually beneficial cooperation," said Cam.

Hanoi can learn from Seoul's experience in economic development and adapt the lessons to suit Vietnam's own style. The Vietnamese, in return, will guarantee a solid return for South Korean businesses in the process, he said.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu concluded his visit to this Southeast Asian capital Friday, meeting Cam and President Le Duc Ahn. The two countries reaffirmed Seoul's promise to provide financial aid to Vietnam that will go into youth job training programs and many infrastructure projects.

On the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program, Cam advised patience.

"Our principle is that the entire world should be denuclearized," he said. "No matter how complicated the situation, one can surely find the right solution through patience and respect."

Cam declared Hanoi's unflinching commitment to socialism with a market economy.

"We made a grave mistake, the mistake of believing that a market economy can be applied only to capitalist societies. It was not a mistake that only we made. Other socialist nations made the same kind of error," he told South Korean reporters.

Macroeconomically, the Vietnamese Government will intervene to ensure balanced growth, he said. In addition, the government will guarantee free competition, a market based on the principle of supply and demand, he said.

He confirmed that Hanoi and Washington will soon exchange liaison offices, a development that is "an essential aspect in normalizing bilateral relations."

"There are so many things to be done before complete normalization. Just how fast they can be completed depends on efforts by both countries," he said.

Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

BK2305062194 Hanoi VNA in English 1403 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 22—Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Han Sung-chu concluded his four-day visit to Vietnam today.

While in Vietnam, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu was received by President Le Duc Anh and held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Manh Cam during which the two sides informed each other of the situation of each country and exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern and on the further development of cooperation between Vietnam and ROK in the fields of economy, science and technology, culture, education, healthcare and labour cooperation.

On this occasion, Vietnamese Minister of Finance Ho Te and Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu signed an agreement on double taxation avoidance.

On May 21, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu visited Ho Chi Minh City, where he called on Mr Nguyen Van Linh, advisor to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and met with Mr Truong Tan Sang, mayor of Ho Chi Minh City.

The ROK foreign minister also toured a number of economic, cultural and historic establishments in the city.

Vo Van Kiet Arrives in Kuala Lumpur on Visit

BK2305070594 Hanoi VNA in English 1403 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 22—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet arrived in Kuala Lumpur today to attend the forum of leaders of the Pacific Basin Economic Cooperation Council (PBEC) at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Chairman of the PBEC Mr. T. Bahdia.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Foreign Minister Abdullar Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia and chairman of the PBEC T. Bahdia and others.

Deputy Prime Minister Visits Tunisia 16-19 May

BK2305120494 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 21—Deputy Premier Nguyen Khanh visited Tunisia from 16 to 19 of May.

During his stay in Tunis, Mr Nguyen Khanh held talks with a Tunisian delegation led by Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia in which the two sides agreed to promote cooperative relations to suit good long standing political ties between the two countries.

Trade Minister Le Van Triet, who accompanied the deputy premier, signed a trade agreement with his counterpart Mr Sadok Rabah.

The Vietnamese deputy premier and his delegation were received by Tunisian Premier Hamed Karoui, who said, among other things, that Dien Bien Phu victory won by Vietnam had inspired strongly the struggle for national independence in North Africa as a whole and in Tunisia in particular.

Mr Nguyen Khanh also paid a courtesy visit to Palestinian President Y. 'Arafat at PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Trade Agreement Signed

BK2305131794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Vietnam and Tunisia have signed a trade agreement for cooperation in investment, tourism, agriculture, culture, education, and other fields. The agreement came during a visit by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, who was received by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. The Tunisian prime minister said: The Dien Bien Phu Victory won by the Vietnamese people has strongly inspired the struggle for national independence in north Africa and Tunisia in particular.

Provincial Delegations Visit Laos, PRC

BK2305094394 Hanoi VNA in English 0546 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 21—A delegation of the Son La province's party committee led by its secretary Do Van on paid a working visit to Houa Phan province of Laos from May 16-20.

"A delegation of Ho Chi Minh City led by Vo Tran Chi politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and secretary of the city's party committee, paid a working visit to Shanghai, China. While there the Vietnamese delegation had working sessions with a delegation of Shanghai headed by Wu Bangguo, politburo member of the Communist Party of China, secretary of the city's party committee.

During the visit, the two sides signed an agreement on establishing the friendly, cooperative ties between Shanghai and Ho Chi Minh City.

"A delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture led by its minister Nguyen Cong Tan began a working visit to China on May 14. Mr Tan and his party had discussions with several Chinese agencies concerned about measures to strengthen the cooperative relations between the two countries in the field of agriculture.

"The same day, a delegation of the supreme people's prosecutor of Vietnam led by its head Le Thanh Dao also started its China visit."

Another Lighthouse Being Built on Spratlys

BK2005162994 Hanoi VNA in English 1403 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20—A light house is being built on the Da Tay Island of Truong Sa Archipelagoes (Spratly) by the Maritime Navigation company.

When completed, this light house 20 metres in height, will be visible from 16 nautical miles.

Due to difficult working conditions on offshore islands, [illegible] company leadership constantly takes care of the workers' life, providing them with enough foods, vegetables and fresh water. The company is now managing nearly 30 light houses from northern Province of Quang Ninh to the central Province of Quang Nam Da Nang and the Truong Sa archipelagoes in the East Sea.

Commentary Reviews Growing Ties With ASEAN

BK2205123994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnam, an active participant in the world trend for peace and cooperation, has attached great importance to friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries and nations in the Asia Pacific. This was stated by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at the international conference held in Singapore on opportunities for business in China, Vietnam, and ASEAN. Here is a review of relations between Vietnam and ASEAN.

As reported earlier, at the invitation of Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited Singapore and a trade forum. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet affirmed that Vietnam was actively preparing to become a member of ASEAN soon. Cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN member countries has been developing in all fields especially trade. Two-way trade between Vietnam and ASEAN countries has increased annually. At the end of 1993, ASEAN invested in about 100 projects in Vietnam with the capital of hundreds of million of U.S. dollar, 10 times bigger than that of 1990, and accounted for 10 percent of the total capital invested in Vietnam.

So far, nearly 30 agreements on cooperation in economy, trade, auditing, credit, aviation, and navigation have been signed between the two sides. Vietnam has also signed a large contract with (Primo) Company of Brunei. Many joint ventures are operating positively. Political ties between Vietnam and ASEAN have also developed. Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has visited all ASEAN member countries, and ASEAN leaders have visited Vietnam. ASEAN leaders all affirmed their readiness to support and share experience with Vietnam, to help Vietnam develop rapidly.

Cooperation With European Union Reviewed

BK2005121594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 18 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The ambassador of the European Union to Vietnam Mr. (Will Morgan) has said that the Union and Vietnam have potentials for development and cooperation. Here is our review of this relationship.

Last year, the 12 countries of the European Union expressed interest in the development of cooperation with Vietnam. The European community has committed 40 million U.S. dollar technical aid to help Vietnam develop afforestation. Last month, the European Union Parliament approved the signing of a treaty of cooperation between the EU and Vietnam. EU member countries then advanced the draft frame agreement for the discussion of cooperation and investment in Vietnam. According to the EU Ambassador to Vietnam, in June, EU will continue the discussion of the draft agreement and it might be signed in October this year.

These developments are positive signals for the development of economic relations between Vietnam and the EU member countries.

At present, Vietnam has a big contingent of scientists, but is in short of capital. Once the agreement is signed, it will enable the operation of the European bank in Vietnam. That means Vietnam can obtain loans for economic development, and at the same time, Vietnamese and foreign scientists have opportunities for cooperation.

Speaking with newsmen in Vietnam last week, Mr. (Will Morgan) said that the EU is expecting a long-term cooperation with Vietnam. The two sides will also establish an official committee between the EU parliament and the National Assembly of Vietnam. There are enough conditions for strong cooperation between Vietnam and the EU.

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